

Submitter: Katharine Simons

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I cannot think of a worse solution to the problem of houselessness. I work downtown and my three children all go to school downtown. We are already plagued by tent garbage, needles and feces. My kids have felt threatened by mentally ill and addicted tent dwellers on numerous occasions.

The unhoused have rights, but don't my children have rights to feel safe, and not be at risk of stepping on feces and needles as they make their way through a park or down a sidewalk? Where are the rights of every citizen to peace and safety?

Such a bill would increase the numbers of people coming from other states. We already have a third of the unhoused population coming from other states, as they view Oregon as friendly to drugs, crime, and tent camping.

We are all living through a crisis. More effort needs to be taken to offer stable housing, and addiction and mental health treatments as needed. But "right to rest" is NOT a humane solution for anyone involved.

Sometimes, "tough love" is the most compassionate approach. Unfortunately Oregon leadership seems to confuse "compassion" with "enabling."