

Submitter: Tara Sorensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Spending years working with vulnerable populations and assisting people as they transition from homelessness to housing, I cannot in good conscience support this bill. Oregon needs to follow through with funding rehabilitation facilities as a part of measure 110; stabilize and build more mental health services in both urban and rural communities; and hold people accountable for poor behaviors in all communities including the homeless population. Anybody that contributes to negative impacts in communities need to be held accountable, from those that are incredibly wealthy to the most impoverished. How about instead giving people a free pass for poor behavior that contributes to further alienation from other members who share the community, leaders actually start doing their jobs and build and properly staff facilities to help those mentally ill and suffering from addiction; work to change the culture around poverty; and stop pandering and insighting unrest with ridiculous claims about vulnerable people. How about encouraging affordable housing and creating regulations that stop favoring large companies that buy up real estate. Or maybe you could expand access to mental health care, pay and staff appropriately in order to reduce burnout among mental health professionals. By focusing on addressing the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness and poverty, we can change the conversation. Guess it wasn't such a great idea to allow for people to profit off of another person's suffering. We built this problem, promotion of acceptance for individuals that befoul waterways, create mountains of trash, assault and force their drug use on others is not the answer. Just like supporting zero consequences and accountability for law enforcement is a bad idea, so is this one.