

Submitter: S L

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I understand the vast and nuanced difficulties surrounding the homeless crisis, and know there are no easy solutions, and I feel for people living on the streets.

That being said, does the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many? A 2022 Portland homelessness study indicates that 3,057 (58% of total homeless) homeless are unsheltered. Comparing this to the 2021 United States Census Bureau count of the Portland population, this represents 0.4% of the total Portland residents. Even if this count of unsheltered homeless is undercounted, this is still a small minority of the total population. Portland should be inclusive of everyone, and that includes residents who want to reside on public spaces within Portland as well. This, however, does not mean that people should be able to take over a piece of public property, paid for by the wider population of Portland and Oregon, and live permanently (or as long as they wish) without penalty.