

Submitter: Megan Vaniman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill is premature. A bill such as this is only appropriate when the state has the resources to provide the assistance to our houseless neighbors. This bill only perpetuates an ongoing problem in Oregon without addressing the underlying cause. I implore Congress to look to the recent fentanyl market in downtown Portland. Or look to the number of houseless individual deaths in the last three years, or to the increase in the houseless population over other cities. Any one of these metrics will establish that continued efforts to allow camping is not the way to spend our resources and time. Rather than writing legislature that provides no aim to address the problem, perhaps congress should be spending their time on addressing the needs of the houseless such as treatment, low cost living quarters, and medical care. This bill further ignores the rights of the general public. Camping impedes on the rights of all Oregonians. This bill completely ignores the right to be able to access public sidewalks, streets, parks, and other public locations. Camps and tents impede people with disabilities ability to safely navigate the sidewalks and streets of Oregon. Perhaps rather than addressing whether camping should be decriminalized, Congress should spend its time and money addressing the underlying causes of the need for camping.