

Submitter: Heidi Davis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Committee,

I'm very concerned about this issue. I empathize with the homeless completely, I was homeless myself after my apartment was red-tagged following the Northridge, CA earthquake in 1994. I lost everything. However, I worry about the health risks and safety for myself and my neighbors should this measure pass.

How long would the homeless be allowed to stay in a spot they choose? What is a reasonable amount of time?

We already have issues with tents in the forest around Munsel Creek Trail behind my neighborhood and have to call to have them removed quite often. If the homeless are allowed to stay, where will they bathe? I'm worried they will use Munsel Creek. Where will they relieve themselves? Where will they dispose of trash? What about drug use and disposal of needles? If they use the forest area around the trail for these purposes, how will it be cleaned up? How will they cook food? If they make fires, how do we know they will do so safely? The forest could go up in flames quite easily and burn down both the beautiful forest and our homes.

They often have pets and I am concerned about the health of those pets. I doubt that in their circumstance they are able to keep their pets vaccinated and free from parasites. That then puts us and our pets at risk.

My neighbors and I use the Munsel Creek Trail for exercising ourselves and our pets on a daily basis. As homeowners and taxpayers it is hardly fair that the worry of health and safety for ourselves and our pets would keep us from being able to do so.

I had faith that with the amount of money Ms. Kotek is putting toward the homeless issue something substantial would be done. Allowing the homeless to keep staying in public places was not what I envisioned. There must be a better solution that takes these important health and safety concerns into consideration. I want their needs addressed, but not at risk to me, my neighbors, or our pets.

Thank you,

Heidi Davis  
Florence, Oregon