

Submitter: Deborah Kelly

On Behalf Of: Self

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Twenty-six hundred businesses have left downtown Portland, REI is leaving, Zales gone and even the 2 Walmarts are pulling up stakes. Residents don't feel safe going downtown or visiting many of our city parks or bike trails because of the tents and the ever growing homeless population. The vast majority of the homeless are mentally ill and fentanyl addicted. Help them get off the streets and into drug and mental health facilities. This bill would perpetuate the problem and sound the final death knell for Portland a city that is struggling mightily to hold on to it's remaining businesses. I can't imagine a bill that is more wrong-headed. I was overwhelmed by shock and incredulity when I read this bill. Vote NO!