

Submitter: David Woodall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Thank you for considering my testimony.

As a resident of Downtown Portland, and with a City-sponsored Safe Rest Village in my neighborhood, I feel I have a greater amount of insight into the issue of houselessness than many. My neighborhood is currently represented by the 2300 SW Naito Stakeholder's Group on this issue; a group that has worked extremely hard to develop guidelines and channels of communication with the City, service providers, other government entities, and other stakeholders to create a successful framework for addressing houselessness. My fear is that sweeping, one-size fits all legislation will dismantle or hobble this work, setting-back hard-won progress by nullifying the "no unsanctioned camping/safety zone" currently in place around Safe Rest Villages. These zones are an important component in protecting the residents of the villages as well as the entire neighborhood (which happens to include two schools in my case).

Martin v. Boise already protects houseless people from being moved if there is no available space in shelters. Additionally, HB3501 could allow sidewalks in front of homes and businesses to be used as campgrounds/place to rest. Even without the express permission of HB3501, we already see this occurring with obscene regularity here in Downtown Portland, accompanied by the commensurate increase in public health and safety concerns.

In my opinion, we are better served allocating our limited resources for houselessness on mental health and drug addiction treatment, as well as intelligent shelter and housing options, not on protecting unsanctioned camping on public property, nor bringing in out of state program management companies to fleece us to the tune of \$5,000 per month per resident to hand-out tents.

There is a solution to the problem of houselessness. It won't be realized with a single pen stroke, a giant donation from Phil Knight, or surrendering our public places, but instead through the work of many groups in partnership creating thoughtful, compassionate, responsible plans that address the unique needs of each unique neighborhood.

I respectfully encourage a "No" vote on HB3501; to show support to those currently engaged in the struggle against houselessness and provide them with the tools necessary to achieve the final goal: eliminate houselessness in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dave Woodall

Portland, OR