

Submitter: Lisa Kostova

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To the Oregon State Legislature:

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen and homeowner living near a public park in Portland. My partner and I pay an exorbitant amount of money a year in property taxes and yet we have found ourselves repeatedly traumatized and affected by people living in tents and vehicles right outside our bedroom windows. We have had instances where we have been verbally abused and threatened right at our doorstep.

But unlike the people living in those tents and vehicles, we cannot just pick up and move someplace else to avoid being harassed. We are forced to live in a home where we feel stripped of our right to safety and civil rights, under constant threat of someone under the influence of drugs threatening us and our family with knives, violence and shouting profanities at us - all of which has happened but we have been helpless in getting any assistance from law enforcement. Police have even picked up bullet shells from shots fired from a vehicle with a person sleeping it in across the street from our house windows. It's a miracle that the house was not hit by bullets.

In one instance, there was a person living in a vehicle outside our home who banged on our door at 3 am. I was alone at home at that time and was terrified. I called 911 and when a police officer showed up. the person abused him for coming when he "didn't want the police here". He said he just expected the homeowner to come outside at 3 am and show him the security camera footage from the cameras outside so he could see "who jacked my car". He told the police officer he specifically parked his car outside of our windows because he wanted to take advantage of the "public benefit of their security cameras".

The police officer was really nice and patient with that person - they even drove up and down the street to help him find his car. It turns out the car was safely parked up the street and this person, under the influence of drugs, had imagined that his car was parked in front of our house and that someone stole it. He was very entitled about his right to wake us up at 3 in the morning to attend to his needs, but he had a very strong philosophy that he didn't want to "contribute to a capitalist society by finding a job or paying taxes".

I had PTSD for weeks following this incident and my small business that I lead single-handedly suffered. I lost half of my monthly income because of a person who lived in front of our home and who, according to Portland's laws, had more rights than me and who could also infringe on my rights without consequence.

If HB3501 passes, it will criminalize homeownership and tax payment for people who cannot afford to move away from those who live at their doorstep, often terrorizing them with their behavior. The person who terrorized us in the middle of the night or the person who threatened us with a knife will be able to live undisturbed in their vehicles outside of our windows and even threaten us with a \$1,000 fine for asking them to move.

If this bill passes, my partner and I will be organizing a group of homeowners to sue the state for dereliction of duty and failing to protect our safety. We will be suing the state for our property taxes. And we'll be moving to a different state that cares more about protecting its law-abiding citizens than the state of Oregon.