

Submitter: Dustin Ramirez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a law abiding, tax paying, native citizen of Oregon I'm fed up with seeing this beautiful state and each city within it being ruined by the homeless population! The homeless have no respect for our communities, our waterways, bike paths, parks, public spaces, etc. If you allow the homeless to camp publicly there will be increased garbage, shopping carts, abandoned camps, needles, not to mention the increase in crime everywhere! I see it firsthand here in Eugene every day. Where's the accountability? I have family and friends visit from other states and they're amazed at what we have to put up with here in Oregon and what it's turned into.

There is a park here in Eugene called Washington Jefferson Park where during the pandemic the homeless were allowed to camp w/out removal until the pandemic was over. This park was overrun by thousands of homeless, crime skyrocketed in the area, drug arrests were constantly happening, local businesses and houses broke into and vandalized! Stolen property found on multiple occasions, not to mention the environmental damage done to the park! And when it came to cleaning up their mess guess who was stuck with the bill, taxpayers. They had to re-sod the entire park, redo the water systems, paint over all of the graffiti, clear all the abandoned trash, etc. Thousands and thousands of dollars wasted!

The people of Oregon are very hardworking people! We love the mountains, lakes, and rivers. We take pride in our communities, in our vibrant cities. BUT, we don't feel safe anymore, WE don't feel heard anymore. Our local politicians have deserted us. Now we're stuck with the garbage, the vandalism, the crime, the needles, the tents, the stolen shopping carts, the transients that roam our towns night and day doing whatever they can to score their next fix!

Oregon has become a destination for the homeless. With our lenient drug laws, lack of political support when holding criminals accountable and enforcing laws. Now, these politicians want to allow them to camp in public lawfully. Well, you're just opening the floodgates for more homeless to Oregon and you're forgetting about the people that love Oregon and live and work here!