

Submitter: Ian Driscoll

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This has to be the most tone-deaf piece of legislation that I've heard of in the last 10 years. Oregon seems to be committed to shooting itself in the foot. Portland has become nearly unlivable. You have a mass exodus of businesses and private citizens from downtown because of the rampant homeless problem, you have people attacked and buildings set aflame in what used to be quiet residential neighborhoods, and you have a city council that is deeply ineffectual and seemingly apathetic to the issues (homelessness tops the list) affecting the citizens who are PAYING THEIR SALARIES. Wheeler and his ilk have allowed ideology to trump facts. They're so busy with LOOKING like they're doing something and checking all of the agreed-upon progressive boxes (the issue is not a lack of homes, it's the intersection of meth, heroin, and fentanyl with complex and serious mental health problems), that they've shirked their responsibilities to their tax-paying, voting constituency. The two representatives sponsoring this bill have absolutely no regular, up-close, first-hand knowledge of just how dangerous the streets of Portland have become. I've lived all over the US and internationally, and I can honestly say that Portland is the most profoundly mismanaged city in which I've ever had the misfortune to live. Literally everyone I know here has a horror story about dealing with the homeless in Portland. The solution is not to make it easier for them to camp, or to empower them to SUE the people whose homes they're devaluing simply because they were asked to please not defecate on the sidewalk. The fact that this is even being considered is absolute madness. If the choice is between a homeless person who's high on something, camping in the middle of the street, or a 12-year-old girl just trying to walk to school without being accosted by said homeless person, I side with the 12-year-old girl. And that's as simple as it has become after dragging on for years thanks to our cringing and cowardly city government, apparently content to simply collect a paycheck. Choose US. Choose the people who voted for you. Choose the people who pay your salaries. Choose the people who continue to contribute to society. Choose US, who you will ask to vote for you again, one assumes. Screw your head on and remember who put you where you are. It wasn't the homeless.