

Submitter: Dawn Russ

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

It is a fact that homelessness has gotten out of hand. There is not a "one size fits all" situation for every homeless person. I have spent a lot of time talking with them and dealing with them. There are some that genuinely has issues and are not getting help for. Mental health and rehabilitation services are desperately needed. Also, every city, county and town is different. For example., our little City (population 875) does not have any services, shelters, counseling etc. We do not have the homeless issue that you see in most places. The couple that are, are not actually homeless, they have a home they can go to but choose not to. I have talked to a homeless person that came from Georgia to live on the streets here in Oregon, work at the pot farms, and sell pot. That is a choice. The homeless need to be addressed on a case by case basis. Allowing them to camp or "rest" in parks, right of ways, etc. is just not right. It makes it so that the children cannot play in the parks. The bill or the summary of the bill even talks about homeless and the lack of work. There is plenty of work out there for people to obtain jobs if they wanted. Giving them every thing and allowing this is not doing anything to get them out of their situation. It is creating an entitlement mentality, a mentality that they can do what ever they want with no consequences for bad actions. Again, I will say that there are those out there with legitimate issues, the others, instead of allowing them to live where ever they want, should have some consequences and help encourage them to be a benefit to society and themselves. It is not right that people that pay their taxes and are responsible should have to suffer and pay for those that refuse to.