

Submitter: Donna Jerden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

All we have to do to see what will happen to our neighborhoods, is look at the Medford branch of the Jackson County Library. The homeless literally made it an unsafe place with litter and feces everywhere. To the point, that people with small children had to stop using that library.

The City of Medford has spent and continues to spend millions of dollars to provide services for the homeless. They have the Navigation Center, the Urban campgrounds, help support La Clinica for medical services. They are working with Rogue Retreat to turn motel rooms into apartments. People that want to take advantage of those services have found their way into housing and a clean and sober life. Once again becoming productive members of society. If the legislatures truly wanted to help the homeless they would work on ways to help provide mental health and rehab services.

The failed 110 measure sure isn't helping and has, as far as I can see, only made matters worse. Now we have not only local homeless living in Medford, but we also have people coming to Oregon/Medford because "it is okay to use drugs". There are needles and other harmful things in our parks where children are supposed to be able to play. I saw a post on Thursday where a 3 year old child found what looked to be a bloody knife, in Hawthorne Park. I would image the family went to the local farmer's market and then the children wanted to use the playground. Fortunately the child wasn't hurt in this case. Who knows next time.

The citizens of Jackson County have spent millions of dollars to upgrade our parks and the library system and now we can't take children to the library, we can't take children to the parks, we can't use the greenway, all because it isn't safe. This is not okay.