

Submitter: Jaime Carleton
On Behalf Of: Civil Rights Activist
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

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Position: Support

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

I am writing today in support of HB3501, the Oregon Right to Rest bill.

I myself have been homeless. I was homeless and pregnant, and homeless with my children's father a Vietnam Veteran and our children. Anyone can end up homeless for a number of reasons.

The former mayor of Bend Craig Coyner. stunningly illustrates that no one is immune from homelessness.

In Craigs case mental illness and substance abuse robbed him of his career, his home and ultimately his life.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/02/22/craig-coyner-bend-mayor-dead-weekday-wrap/>

Everyone deserves to be housed, a right to rest, and free from a life of harassment, by privileged individuals who value property values over a homeless child's life.

The media has portrayed the homeless as a burden. As long as profit outweighs the value of a human life the homeless will be seen as unworthy of housing and the right to dignity, a right to be housed and the right to peace and rest.

As I look at the people's testimony who have opposed the Civil Rights of those less fortunate than them, I wonder how they can deny a homeless disabled individual, elderly person or a child, and their family a right to rest.

The fact is that even those that are homeless and own a trailer or motor home to sleep in are heavily fined because laws have prohibited them to have a right to rest unless they own their own private property. This puts more of a burden on the homeless because they are not allowed the right to rest unless they own property, and as a result fined for simply not having enough money to be housed.

We are in a time of economic hardship and there are shortages of safe and affordable housing to Oregonians. Rent has gone up so high that those that are housed struggle to keep housed, and many homeless work full time jobs and because of our economy cannot afford shelter. Homeless people deserve a right to rest without being harassed.

HB3501 will allow unhoused children and their families to use public spaces without discrimination, time limitations.

It is not easy to be homeless and HB3501 if passed will help children and families who are homeless to not be harassed and the right to rest.

Please listen to your heart and have mercy on the homeless and pass HB3501.

Thank-You

Respectfully

Jaime

Jaime Ann Carleton

Civil Rights Activist and Animal Liberation Activist