

Submitter: Marcie K

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Citizens are paying taxes (property) and fees (utilities) to maintain and improve many of these "public spaces" where houseless individuals would be allowed to occupy. These come in the form of State, City, and County taxes and fees; most earmarked to accomplish the same goal. Every year, those taxes and fees increase and more taxes are voted in because more upkeep is required and more improvements need to be made. Although not in all cases, but in some cases, this is because these public spaces were not meant to be occupied by the houseless and the additional upkeep and improvements are needed to include this use. At the same time the people paying for this additional maintenance and upkeep are no longer wanting to use the public space they are paying for. The City of Tigard just purchased a hotel using Project Turnkey and Washington County Housing Services funds to provide transitional housing. In this case I like that my money is going towards setting up actual housing. Why not contribute funds to this kind of assistance and create new jobs to administer/manage the programs or assist the companies hired to manage these facilities. I understand some people don't want to be accountable to "the system" and prefer to live on the streets. I don't think it's my job to pay for them because they choose to. I want to help the people who want to be helped. If they need health care (to include mental services) or addiction or rehabilitation services, etc. I would rather we use funds to mitigate the cause and help people overcome homelessness. Otherwise the issue grows and so does the need for more and more funding. I'm not against paying taxes or fees. In this case I'm against paying them while the reason I'm paying them is discouraging others from enjoying the actual facilities.