

Submitter: M P

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3501. Homelessness is indeed a complex problem. This bill does nothing to address the root causes of homelessness. It will further erode the public trust by granting essentially full access to public spaces that are meant for the enjoyment of ALL citizens. I have watched in horror over the years, especially over the last decade, as more and more once safe places are now completely covered with rubbish and drug paraphernalia. This bill would only serve to worsen this problem.

While I certainly agree that we should help those less fortunate, our liberal policies, including the recent decriminalization of drugs, has attracted people from across the country, since we are a place that welcomes the homeless with open arms. Have efforts been made to look at how many homeless people came or were bussed here from out of state? What percent are drug addicts and how many are willing to stop or get into treatment? How many are sociopaths or criminals?

Since homelessness is a heterogenous problem, there won't be a simple solution. HB3501 will most certainly do nothing to solve this problem. We must invest in poor families, provide education and clear career paths. We must invest resources in families that are struggling. We must provide incentives for youth to steer clear of drugs and gangs.

As a long-time citizen of Portland, I say enough is enough. I urge a 'no' vote on House Bill 3501.