

Submitter: Janis Toohey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness  
Measure: HB3501

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote against HB 3501. If this bill passes, Oregon will most assuredly become the homeless Capitol of America. It will not only cause a huge influx of people coming into the state, with SB 603, it will actually pay people \$1000 a month to come!

Oregon has already experienced one of the nation's largest increases in homelessness - 23% between 2020 and 2022. If this bill passes, we will see those figures eclipsed. Drive around Oregon - it's easy to see how this increase has already affected Oregon's livability. It is now common place to see piles of garbage and used drug needles strewn about, active drugs use in broad daylight, people defecating on the sides of buildings and on sidewalks, fires getting out of control under overpasses and along freeways, not to mention a huge increase in shoplifting, robbery, and violent crimes.

Oregon has recently started to see long time taxpaying residents who never previously considered moving, leave the state. Portland census data showed the city lost 0.04% of its population after growing for 30 years straight. While the general population declined for three years in a row, Mayor Ted Wheeler's office reported a 50% increase in homelessness from 2019 to 2022. The passing of this bill will surely cause more residents to leave which only means higher taxes and lower property values for those of us who still reside here.

Not only would HB 3501 make homeless camps themselves legal, they would give homeless people a right to privacy wherever they decide to pop up a tent. In addition, any homeless person being asked to move from their home would have the right to sue. Squatters living in RVs and vacant homes have already caused issues in various neighborhoods throughout the state. If this bill passes, there will be nothing taxpaying residents can do to protect their homes and communities.