

Submitter: LJ Parker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please do not pass HB 3501. There are so many reasons HB 3501 is a bad idea. Everyone agrees that people that are homeless deserve some help. Let me tell you about the other side of the story, the side no one wants to here because it sounds "inhumane." This is from those of use who are just trying to live a nice life in Eugene. First, HB 3501 is supposed to save money for more effective policing. Let's place more campers in public areas with their garbage, including human feces. Let's place a human body on a trafficked sidewalk. In other words, let's create more opportunity for human conflict and see if the police are contacted less. Never mind that the tax-paying citizen who asks the person who is homeless to clean up their trash, please stop yelling, or move their leg a little so that a bike can get by. That homeless person can sue you! And speaking of being in the bike path, what can be more demeaning to a person sleeping on a sidewalk than to have other people walking/biking by like they aren't even there? Let's place a human body sleeping on a busy sidewalk, what could possibly go wrong? Keep in mind many of these people have mental and drug issues. It is fairly obvious if you set up a place for an altercation, there will be one. Will this really lead to less policing?

Secondly, and not new, people need a place to sleep, and where do they do their bodily functions, do you think? I believe we all know the answer to that one.

Thirdly, safety. There are several cycling routes I no longer use due to be harassed by someone living along the path, or, I cannot because of their stuff on the path.

Yes, tax-paying citizens get harassed daily by people who are homeless. Just last week a friend had a terrible cycling accident due to people loitering with their stuff in the bike path, under an overpass. Is this really where you want to raise your kids?

Fourth, continue safety and health. Take a walk along First Street in Eugene near the railroad tracks and you will get an idea of what some neighborhoods already deal with on a smaller scale. This is what will happen by opening up more public places for people to camp. I live near an open area that is popular for attempted camping. In the last few years, because of neighborhood vigilance and park ambassadors addressing illegal camping, I very rarely have cleanup human feces, old clothes, old sleeping bags, and who-knows-what-else along my fence. The park ambassadors have been a huge help and someone we can contact. My home has been broken into, special items stolen from me due to un-housed people allowed to hang near. My neighborhood is having a bit of peace because as a neighborhood we are vigilant if a problem starts.

If people are allowed to camp more in public areas, the safety and health of Eugene will suffer. Some neighbors might take matters into their own hands due to the frustration level of Eugene enabling homelessness.

Do we want to live here? Not any more. I personally have had 3 good friends and

their families move with the PRIMARY reason being homelessness in Eugene and the problems that it causes. It seems the tax-paying citizen has not much voice here. I follow all the "rules" of being a good citizen. And yet, I cannot walk safely along the river, I cannot bike safely along a bike path, I have to be super-aware of who is in the park space behind my home, I have to clean up their health hazard messes. You can do better than let people camp in more places.

There is a new proposed Ballot Measure 20-343 to raise more money for park maintenance. Get ready to pay a LOT more for trash pick-up and police work if this HB 3501 passes.