

Submitter: Sabrina Smith
On Behalf Of: Myself and my family
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I oppose this bill because tax paying citizens and our children have the right to use our public lands. It would be detrimental to our state to give legal protection to the homeless to take over our public lands and cover it in trash and tents. I understand there is a small portion of the homeless population who are struggling mentally, and they do need help but let's face it, the majority of the homeless that are taking over our beautiful state is made up of the lawless. People who know how to work the system and who want to live a lawless life. They know what resources are available to them because they are getting food stamps and free cell phones, but they are CHOOSING not to work. We have jobs everywhere in our state, it is not difficult to find one and to use that as an excuse to live on the street is a joke.

The homeless are leaving trash all over our public spaces that are meant for use by everyone. These spaces are paid for by taxpayers who are not able to use them because they are being taken over by drugs, trash, and tents. This is happening even in front of our schools! Children cannot use the sidewalks to walk to and from school because the homeless are living on the sidewalks and blocking them with their physical bodies and their junk which is also spilling out onto the streets.

We have to find a better solution to this growing problem. Giving the homeless legal rights to live on and take over our public land is not the solution; in fact, it is the exact opposite.

Our government needs to figure out how to provide actual temporary housing that will physically take them off of the streets. They should be required to find a job and take regular drug screens in order to live in the temporary housing units. This will actually help them out of this situation and what's more living on public land should be made illegal in Oregon otherwise why should any of us be required to pay property taxes? We might as well build moveable houses and live wherever we want to as well, would certainly save us a lot of wasted tax dollars spent on maintaining lands we can't have access to.

Oregon government is continuing to give more and more tax dollars to the homeless and the situation is getting worse. When are you going to wake up and see what you're doing is only making it worse. The lawless are flocking to Oregon because they know they do not have to follow the rules here. Tax paying Oregonians are moving out of state because of it.

Let's start protecting our children and law-abiding citizens and actually fix this

growing problem before it takes over our beautiful state and everyone else moves away.