

Submitter: Marie Delanux

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing as a manager of a hotel in Downtown Portland. I strongly oppose to the proposed Right to Rest Act being considered. We sit right across from the Open-Air Fentanyl Market Building (Owned by the Menashe's) and i can assure you that the safety of us who work in this area and this neighborhood has been the last thing on this council's mind. Every day, i have been harassed, assaulted, shot at, spit on, stabbed, verbally abused, jumped; you name it, it has happened to me and my co-workers daily and all we are doing is going to work. Every time we come in, we have to ask the drug users (who are also homeless) to leave our hotel as they have snuck in and harassed guest and children alike and use our outside landing areas as a drug nook. We have had to endure being threatened, having the so called "soft drugs" like Fentanyl and Meth blown in our faces as the homeless/drug users do what they want, when they want around our building and neighborhood. We have endured and witnessed 12 overdose deaths just within a block of our hotel in a week and a half's time. We have seen numerous car thefts, car break in's (most of those were mine and our employees' cars), our GM was jumped coming outside of our parking structure while coming in to work. The problem lies with the fact that not one person, including the woman trying to pass this bill, has ever spent more than 20 minutes in this area to see exactly what goes on and how bad the conditions are. Our hotel goes through constant complaints with guest scoring us so low, we are in jeopardy of losing our Marriott flag because the guest feels unsafe and harassed while staying with us, which jeopardizes us keeping our jobs if they shut us down. The fact that now, the drug users and homeless population will continue to ravage this town and now, this bill will make it easier for a junkie to say someone is harassing them and sue someone like me for asking them to move off private property or to ask them to leave because they are harassing our guest at the hotel. Instead of thinking of these crazy ideas of how to protect the homeless/drug addict population, why not put money towards SB 110 and the treatment plans that were supposed to come with this bill. Instead, your bill will punish the hard-working taxpayers who now have to fear that if they tell a homeless/drug user to move off private property, they will be sued or thrown in jail? It is astounding that not one person from this council actually has come down here to see exactly what it is like. How all of these bills are being passed by folks who live outside of Downtown Portland and have yet to come walk down the streets of Downtown Portland for more than 5 minutes to see how it really is down here. How we who are not homeless are attacked, harassed, threatened etc. but need to now feel like we need to tip toe around the homeless/drug users in fear that we will be sued by them? I find it shameful that i, myself, could be sued at any given time by the homeless/drug users and fear prison time for protecting myself, when i have to go up against a committee that is oblivious to the actuality of what

goes on down here. I would take this more seriously if this committee and the members in it were actually part of reality and not some dream land that does not exist. I oppose this bill 1,000,000x over and instead of pushing things through, how's about you come down here and see what we have to deal with as tax paying, hard working citizens who are trying to support their families all the while being harassed and threatened daily.