

Submitter: Heather Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This legislation is shockingly short-sighted and ill-informed given the plethora of examples of its potential TRUE impact blanketing the state, especially Portland. It's incredibly naive to think that this plan will actually result in any manner of positive outcome. It's not a solution, it's an accelerant to an already raging fire. Given the bar Gov. Kotek has set regarding the caliber of each county's detailed plan around homelessness to gain access to the emergency funds she procured, I'm pretty sure this falls far short of it and will be vetoed (if it doesn't die on the House floor again, as it should, and likely will).

Rep. Pham – I can \*almost\* forgive Beaverton blindness on this bill, but YOU? No way. Not given the district that's under your watch. I'm one of your constituents and if this is the level of problem solving and critical thinking I can expect from you, you won't be getting my vote again.

Below are some considerations and potential impacts that you should have already thought through, but clearly couldn't be bothered to...

- Brick and mortar business owners have been fleeing Portland over the impact of lax laws around public tenting. This will only accelerate that flight and work to destroy a once flourishing community of small businesses and the economy.
- Solvent residents will leave. They already are.
- This will actually increase our homeless population by attracting more of them to Oregon to take advantage of this sweet deal
- Criminally minded homeless (or "posing as homeless") take complete advantage of the situation and create a lucrative and easy stream of revenue by working the legal side of this legislation
- How will disorderly, dangerous and/or criminal behavior by homeless staking claim to public property be handled if they're wholesale protected from "harassment", even by police?
- What about sanitation/trash removal?
- What about sidewalk accessibility for the disabled? There was already a lawsuit against the City of Portland over this.
- Will they be responsible for the sidewalk around them like homeowners are?
- Will they pay property taxes like homeowners do?

By the way, I am certainly NOT against finding a proper and sustainable solution to our homeless problem. I find it shocking that we haven't found a better solution by now (and long before Covid) when there are successful models in other cities and

states we could draw from.

Do better.