

Submitter: Corey Adkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1514

My name is Corey Adkins, and I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1514. The "objective reasonableness" standard that HB 3115 set creates bare minimum protections that ensure that people experiencing homelessness are being given alternatives, and that communities are investing in addressing the root causes of homelessness rather than just in enforcement. Has this approach solved the homelessness crisis in Oregon? Of course not. I live on 82nd Avenue in Portland, I am well aware of the extent of the crisis. It is a systemic one with many causes that requires time, effort, creativity and patience. It is uncomfortable for all of us to see our neighbors experiencing houseless undergoing crises on the streets in front of us, and at times even dangerous. However giving up due to fear, frustration or a lack of patience will not solve this issue. Using the hammer of law enforcement will not solve this issue. It will only further traumatize people who are already the most vulnerable in our society, and further deepen this crisis. If we choose to criminalize homelessness, let us Oregonians not forget that many of us are only a few unlucky turns away from experiencing homelessness ourselves.

"Men often hate each other because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they can not communicate; they can not communicate because they are separated." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 1514.