

Submitter: Robin Sherwin
On Behalf Of: taxpayers and homeowners
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I have lived in Portland Oregon for over 45 years and had hoped to stay for the rest of my life. Oregon has become such a mecca for drug addicts who steal to pay for drugs, thieves, vandals and people who have no desire to contribute but rather take handouts that I am looking to move out of state. My husband does mental health for Multnomah county so we have first hand knowledge of how people take advantage of the generosity of our government. I fear for his life everyday he goes to work in east Multnomah county.

Proposed HB3501 will only increase the homeless population as unmotivated people continue to move here to take advantage of our lax laws allowing them free reign. While I agree that there is a housing shortage, giving out tents and permission to camp anywhere is not a humane solution. Last year Portland Fire reported that there were over 2000 calls related to homeless campers.

When you add up all the cost associated with the homeless, it's toll is tearing apart our city. Last winter it was reported that several people called 911 to report someone in danger only to find that they wanted a ride to the hospital for a warm shower and food. Their are stores closing due to shoplifting and vandalism. Consumers are paying higher prices for good as business need to recoup their losses. Our home and auto insurance rates have skyrocketed to cover claims.

We can't even enjoy our natural beauty as anytime you leave your car at a trail head or attraction their is a high probability that you will return and find a broken window and the car ransacked or the catalytic converter has been sawed off. I am afraid to go to downtown Portland due to mugging and senseless crime.

Attracting the wrong element to Oregon will surely lead to it's demise as the working taxpayer will continue to flee our once beautiful state.