

Submitter: Margie Tucker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

RE: HB 3501 – WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO COMMON SENSE?

To Whom it May Concern,

It is hard to believe this is even a consideration. Isn't there a law against blocking city sidewalks? Sleeping in the parks, streets, etc.?

I understand the General Fund. Is the Legislature just attempting to ask for more money to maintain public areas in the name of "getting the houseless out of people's backyards", just to drop that money into the General Fund pot? Once in the "pot" those funds can be used for ANYTHING. For Example:

Budgeted Funds for Schools	\$100,000m
Lottery Funds Dedicated	+ 85,000m
Total Funds for Schools	\$185,000m
After Lotter Funds were Received Wellness Clinic)	-65,000m (For Maria Garcia
ACTUAL TOTAL SCHOOL FUNDS	\$125,000m

IT IS ALWAYS ABOUT THE MONEY.

I can't even go into how ridiculous it would be to allow the houseless to use public areas - - they are no longer "public areas" if the houseless are allowed to live there. How does something like this even come up for discussion? I thought we were going different directions. The only thing more ridiculous is giving the houseless \$1,000 to live on our streets.

Common sense has been completely removed from Oregon's government. The highest percentage of the people living on the streets do NOT want to be off the streets so this idea should be like icing on the cake "let's give them tents, clothing, food and cell phones and let them live on the streets as they want – and give them \$1,000.00 a month to do so" – LIFE IS GOOD!

HERE IS WHAT WORKED IN THE PAST:

- A person is passed out or drunk/violent on the streets
- Chiers or a police wagon pick them up
- TAKE THEM TO DETOX – mandatory for 7 days

- While in Detox:
- o Shower and De-louse
- o Wear Pajamas
- o Take to City health facilities and test for
 - ? TB (chest xray)
 - ? Communicable Diseases
 - ? Mental Health
 - ? As many agencies as needed
- o Supply the person with clean clothes

I worked at the County when they had this program. I gave X-rays to pajama-clad people. We did not have anything close to our homeless problem back then. If the homeless didn't want to take the chance of going into Detox, they left the City (if not the State).

ALL ABOUT THE MONEY!

Another place that needs money (more than an unused bike bridge over Hwy 84) is the State Mental Hospital. Mental health homeless need a specific kind of help but Oregon's legislature would rather have that money to spend on special interests. It seems most politicians have their OWN special interests and they don't include spending that money on actually going back to what did work. Instead of just throwing money away by cleaning up and giving out tents.

Separate the drug users, mental health people and the few leftover people who cannot afford a place to live or a way to get to work.

DO NOT ALLOW SPENDING ANY MORE MONEY ON COMMITTEES, OFFICE BUILDINGS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, NEW EMPLOYEES, NEW TEAM LEADERS, COMPUTERS, CONSULTANTS. IT IS SIMPLE – USE COMMON SENSE.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY – PUT IT WHERE IT BELONGS. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE \$1,000 PER MONTH TO THE HOMELESS YOU SHOULD RE-ROUTE IT TO THE CITIZENS WHO HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE DISGUSTING MESS ON THEIR PROPERTY.

Sincerely,

Marjorie D Tucker
Award Winning Builder/Designer (retired)