

Submitter: Daniel Merritt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I oppose "The Right to Rest Bill" because it will not help the housed or the houseless. The houseless crisis is a sad and complex issue. Oregon needs both more long term and short term housing, as well as greater access to mental health programs. But this bill is a step in the wrong direction. Houseless encampments are dangerous for the houseless and housed. The amount of violence, rape, and theft that occurs at many of these camps only serves to further victimize houseless people, as well as endanger passersby. More than 80% of pedestrians killed by vehicles are people suffering from homelessness.

I am a lifelong democrat and Oregon citizen. But if this bill passes, I will have to rethink my party affiliation.