

Submitter: Billie Ryan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Every human being deserves to be treated with the same level of divinity and deserves equal rights. But unfortunately this bill does not provide equal stature to transient individuals (the proper way to refer to such people, homeless can be offensive to some) but, gives them more rights than a housed individual. An example of such would be the portion of the bill that states a transient may eat in a public place where food is prohibited. Another is the \$1,000 dollar fine if whatever structure they erected is impinged on or destroyed by another individual. If my kids camp in my yard and another kid decides to tear it down and destroy their stuff, will I be able to sue their parents for \$1,000 dollars? Or if someone messes with my tent and equipment when I'm camping for an extended period of time, would the same rights be applied to me?

This bill will also lead to more deaths of transient individuals since the \$1,000 dollar fine will unfortunately be abused by individuals just looking to gain that amount of cash. Also that figure isn't enough to take a person out of the situation they are in or find housing given the current cost of rent in most of the state but would give them a hefty amount to buy intoxicating substances which could explode the drug crisis in cities such as Portland.

These people deserve dignity and to have the help to rise back to the level they once were at or reach whatever goals and aspirations they may have. Housing programs, more shelter beds, and work programs are what is needed. This bill as I have stated doesn't address any of this nor does the wording of it seem to be structured to steer people towards such resources.

What this bill does do, is give a false sense of accomplishment that looks good to say on the campaign trail when talking to certain demographics of voters.

Let's not pass a bill/law that strays us Oregonians off the path we are already marching on to address this issue. Let's instead continue our focus on passing more laws that provide more beds to shelters and more resources in general to the transient population of Oregon. Let's get Governor Kotek the funds she requested to actually address this massive crisis with money and actions and not just laws that sound good. Thanks for your time.