

Submitter: Mary Lucero-Larsen
On Behalf Of: 2300 Naito Stakeholders Group
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

We oppose HB 3501. Homeless people are already protected from being moved from public property if there is no available shelter via the court ruling Martin vs. Boise.

We need to spend our limited resources (time, energy, and money) on mental health and addiction treatment, and shelter and housing for the homeless, not on measures that will ultimately encourage people to stay in unhealthy and dangerous situations.

In many areas of our state businesses, homeowners, and renters already struggle to keep access to their dwellings open and safe. Allowing people to camp on sidewalks takes away their security and right of access to their own property.

HB 3501 would hamper the efforts of the City of Portland to move people from unsafe unsanitary camping to sanctioned campsites, shelters, and housing that offer toilets, running water, trash collection, and wrap around services.

HB 3501 may also nullify the 150 ft. Safety Zone of no unsanctioned camping around Portland's Safe Rest Villages. This Safety Zone is crucial to the safety of the residents of the village as they transition to permanent housing as well as for the entire neighborhood.

Please oppose this unnecessary and potentially harmful bill.