

Submitter: Gina Challed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am shocked and appalled by this bill as an Oregon taxpayer. Of course everyone deserves a place to rest, and that is why we need more shelters and mental health facilities that can care for the unhoused, but there is no justifiable reason that homeowners and taxpayers, and the city as a whole, should have to suffer for their sake. I lived in Portland for 16 years and still have a home there, but moved to Camas because of how bad things were getting in Portland, and primarily because it stopped feeling like a safe place to raise my two small children. When we had to dodge an aggressive homeless person on our walk to school every day, that was the last straw. I encounter people on a regular basis, here in Camas, who have said that they were forced to leave Portland because it was being so poorly managed and started to feel unsafe. By protecting and putting the unhoused before the rest of the community, you are making a very clear statement that your priority is not the welfare of the majority. It is also very short-sighted because it will continue to collapse the city's moral and economy, as more and more people move out of Portland and stop visiting because of its bad reputation. My husband and I loved Portland and wanted to raise our family there and send our children to PSU when they grew up. We kept our house thinking we could ride this storm out and move back to Portland one day, but if measures like this pass and the city continues to deteriorate, I don't see that happening. It's been heartbreakingly to watch our favorite city's downfall.