

Submitter: Tyler Sauter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

It's not about constitutional, legal, or human rights. It's about hope, dignity, shame, and support.

The houseless maintain all of their rights (which needs to be listed and defined to avoid any confusion), but they don't maintain access to them. A place to exist, currently may be on public streets or public/private property (not to their own) but it's not a healthy or ideal situation - portland or oregon as a whole needs to provide shelters, camps, permanent and/or temporary supportive housing. Without that investment, you're avoiding long-term solution. Those that wish to remain houseless because of its simplicity or prefer it's lifestyle, shouldn't be allowed to roam nonsensically, there should be clear ground rules so we all can exist peacefully. Define what that is. I pay around 25k in taxes every year, I would hope that would help prevent me walking into the street when there's a tent taking up the sidewalk, walking down the street without seeing vandalism everywhere, being informed by women who avoid downtown Portland because they don't feel safe and fear the possible dangers from the houseless (perception or otherwise).

If you want to have ephemeral land claiming that might resemble more native and ancient ways of living, than it should exist elsewhere or property ownership (public and private) should not exist either since it's a barrier. But the majority have chosen to exist together and follow societal rules and pay months of pay every year to do so...I challenge you to be houseless for a period and figure out what you prefer...allowance to reside anywhere you freely choose to but remain houseless or be housed... I mean the lack of common sense in preventative actions is absolutely absurd. The houseless are people and they matter, I agree, but they are houseless for many reasons. If housing or right to shelter is a human right than define shelter...is it a tent? Or an apartment/house? Is there an ideal situation? If an enclosed shelter protected by weather conditions is a shelter than focus on housing, not an incentive to be houseless.

This bill is extremely frustrating because you care about the houseless's rights but aim at useless ideas, tree but not the forest. Aim big otherwise don't aim at all because this issue is big and is negatively impacting Portland. Waste my tax money so you can fumble your fingers supporting the problem than fixing it.