

Submitter: Mckenzie Coffee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill only exacerbates the horrific problem Oregon residents are experiencing. We are sick and tired of not feeling safe in our communities. Hard-working people deserve to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. From the stages of 0-14 weeks pregnant, there was a huge camp that was built outside of my home. I had to experience arson right outside of my house by an object set on fire and then a month after an RV exploded directly across the street from my house. I had a pitbull approach me on the sidewalk and growl, I froze and screamed and yelled for someone to get their dog. It was clear this camp was cooking & dealing drugs and there was obvious drug use that I saw with my own eyes, including needles on the sidewalk in front of my house. I begged and pleaded to 311 and the police for help. NOBODY IS ABLE TO HELP BECAUSE OF POLICIES LIKE THIS BILL. There was literally nothing anyone could do for me. Finally, for reasons unknown to me, the city decided to come out and clean up the camp. The entire first trimester of my pregnancy, which is already a challenging and scary time with the fear of pregnancy loss, I was living in fear and didn't feel safe in my own home and sidewalks. Speaking of sidewalks, Oregon homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks in front of their homes. Homeowners are required to pay thousands of dollars to fix sidewalks in front of their homes and legislators are advocating to give these drug dealers free rein over our sidewalks? And we are left to pay and clean up the mess. It's unbelievable. Anyone who still advocates for policies like this is blind. Portland is a failed social experiment. We need law, order, and people who refuse to leave the street need to be placed where they can get help because they are not well. I have been a Democrat my whole life and I believe in social services, but I can see that this is a dangerous and failed experiment in this city. It's all talk. The resources were never implemented to support the radical policies and it has turned into anarchy. Do your job. Help the good people of Oregon. Stop trying to make our lives miserable. After all, we are the ones who vote.