

Submitter: Corrie Winter
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I oppose this bill because Portland, a city I have loved since the first time I visited it, is losing so many of the things that made it a special and wonderful place to live: safety, cleanliness and beautiful public spaces. I lived in Portland from 2013-2010 when there were no tents at all. I left abroad for a decade and returned in 2020, purchased a home in inner SE and truly would like my family to live here forever. However, the impact on us and the entire city from unchecked public camping, drug use, mental health issues, theft and failed public policy is greatly affecting our day to day experience living in the city. Enabling more camping and drug use by codifying the right to camp publicly and giving homeless people \$1000/mo will perpetuate the problems we are currently seeing and attract more of it. Instead, we need desperately to end public camping, create enough shelter sites and beds for people experiencing homelessness, create mandatory drug rehabilitation facilities and prosecute crime. I love this city, but if public camping continues... if we continue to see human waste in our streets, see garbage everywhere, experience theft of our home & cars and steer our dogs and children away from discarded needles and people experiencing mental health crises, I'm afraid we'll need to leave the city and possibly the state. Small and large businesses are leaving Portland neighborhoods at an alarming rate for the same reasons. This can't go on. Please oppose this bill.