

Submitter: Daniel Atchison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Allowing the homeless community to take over parks is not a tangible solution to the crisis facing our state. This bill is actually worse than being a simple band-aid for the problem. If we surrender public parks to the homeless without providing anything else, we will never get the parks back. The city of Springfield has banned camping and one only needs to cross I-5 into Eugene to see the difference it makes.

Springfield has lower crime, the parks are actually safe to visit and you don't have to worry about stepping in human excrement or on a needle when you go there. This state has 98,000 square miles of land, most of it you can currently camp on without a permit. This bill will do nothing to actually improve the situation for the homeless, if anything, it will exacerbate it by making Oregon a more attractive place to come to if you're experiencing homelessness.