

**Testimony HB 3501**

**5.1.23**

Are you serious???

Our region faces an addiction crisis and mental health crisis, all while we are in a law enforcement crisis.

Homelessness needs to be addressed and combatted by our government comprehensively and on a grand scale. I believe all efforts should be laser-focused on reducing homelessness in the Portland metropolitan area. We should not be satisfied until no one must live in inhumane conditions on our streets.

I respectfully oppose HB 3501 and believe adding the proposed language to the statutes is a mistake.

I am concerned that this bill will overly burden our cities and counties who are already struggling. The proposed language is vague and will create many more problems than it might solve. It is also not needed.

The bill would prohibit “harassment” which is defined in part as “seriously alarming.” It would also allow individuals to rest in public spaces so long as they do not “obstruct” pedestrians or vehicles.

There is no need for these special protections from criminal prosecution as law enforcement and district attorneys are already exercising discretion in not arresting and prosecuting illegal campers.

Scott Kappes

Concerned Citizen

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