

Submitter: Matt Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This legislation is the death knell for neighborhood livability in every urban area of the state. Voting and tax paying constituents statewide are understandably aghast at this proposal. Cities like Medford which are overrun with homeless encampments are experiencing an exodus of families and businesses who have been deeply and negatively impacted by the hug and release policies of this state. This bill goes too far. The homeless have rights but lack accountability and repercussions for their actions. They spoil the environment, they poach endangered species out of our waterways, they are responsible for more than 30% of our crime in this town while accounting for less than 1% of the population.

The real issue at hand is the abject failure of 110 with zero growth in residential treatment or walk-in facilities, zero metrics for success of the grant recipients, and the failure of the legislature to increase mental health services for the past 40 years. This is not a housing issue. It is a drug issue. It is a mental health issue. Yet the current legislature deems it fit to manufacture a “protected class” of citizens who contribute little and consume resources at a mad rate, all at the absolute detriment of the people who follow the rules, pay our taxes, and are relatively successful despite the action of our elected representatives.

3501 is (like 110, 2005, and 114), poorly thought out, even more poorly written, will have untold unintended consequences, and will only succeed in allowing out of touch legislators to virtue signal without solving any issue, in fact creating more.

I urge you to vote against this travesty and protect the quality of life of the people who voted for you.