

I do not support this bill as written.

However, I do support the underlying goal of making sure homeless individuals are given the same dignity as any other user of a public space. Homeless people should be allowed to use parks and other public spaces in the same way we all use them without fear of harassment. I do not support this bill that establishes a blanket right of anyone (homeless or otherwise) to take over and turn a public area into a private use area, especially when disregard for sanitation and public safety is displayed.

While a small number of individuals sleeping or camping in a park or parking lot would not likely cause issues, a large number of people camping in a park would make the park unusable to the public. Homeless people do deserve the right to be able to rest and sleep but not at the expense of depriving others the use of a public park. The bill also makes no provision for increasing funding to agencies tasked with managing the parks for things such as garbage and waste removal.

The plight of people rendered homeless is deserving of public attention and fund allocation, but turning parks into de-facto residential areas is unacceptable.

Please don't let the examples of trashed Eugene, Portland, Seattle and others be lost.

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