

Submitter: theresa mitchell
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

Please consider the unintended consequences of passing a bill with this language. Our sidewalks, streets, parks, and all public spaces should be available and accessible for all residents to use. The elements surrounding unsanctioned camping put communities members at risk when they block access to the right of way. Allowing people to suffer publicly is not a compassionate solution for the homeless or the housed. Please consider the wellness of all who would be negatively impacted if this bill were to pass. It's hard to per-sue happiness if the RIGHT of WAY is blocked or occupied by people not only resting, but doing literally every other private thing in our public spaces. The unintended consequences of HB3501 would disproportionately negatively impact our most vulnerable citizens. Our Seniors, disabled folks, and children. Please think of our kids. They have NO voice and are not fully capable of processing trauma. Yesterday a man on trimet sat next to my disabled teen who is on the spectrum, put his arm around my sons shoulder, and offered to sell him "drugs". We are already afraid to use the parks, trimet, and sidewalks with tents blocking the way. Let's turn this around for all of our sake. This bill perpetuates suffering for every community member, housed and house less. There are better solutions than blind tolerance. Portland has been descended upon by sick people seeking to take advantage of our enabling policies. It's become a scary place to raise kids. That's why I oppose.