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On Behalf Of: Concerned Citizens
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

This bill is the most absurd idea! This is NOT going in the right direction, quite the opposite. We all know our state is experiencing a homeless crisis and the solution is not an easy one. To turn this ship around, it will take a "tough love" stance that addresses the overwhelming drug addiction and mental illness (which is the primary causes of the homeless epidemic). Oregon legalized drugs and made it too easy to live the homeless (drug + crime) lifestyle. What about the law-abiding, tax-paying citizen's rights? What about their health and safety? If we allow this problem to continue to get worse by passing insane bills like this, our state is doomed. It seems that maybe that is the plan by the supporters of the bill - to run our state into the ground and create an atmosphere of chaos. The supporters of this bill call this "human rights," - I argue that this is just the opposite. Put your efforts to drug rehabilitation, mental health, and enforcing the law. The number of homeless who are working or displaced solely due to cost or availability of housing is exceptionally low; the vast majority have admitted that they do not want to stop doing drugs and they want to stay where they are (why encourage this behavior?). This bill would not ease the burden of being homeless and incentivize people to turn their lives around, rather it would encourage more homelessness, more drug addiction, and more crime. Giving people with mental illness and drug addiction more access to public spaces and giving them more money would only exacerbate the problem. Let's not sugarcoat this bill by calling it a, "Right to Rest" Act...this would essentially be the right to do drugs, go to the bathroom, spread trash, and set up a tent in even more locations - including in front of homes, neighborhoods, libraries, parks, and more. This would give permission for those who live the way they do in downtown Portland to bring that blight to the rest of our towns. Do you want the rest of our communities to experience what has happened to beautiful Portland? This is NOT the answer.