

Submitter: Lan Truong

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3501, the "Right to Rest Act." This bill would decriminalize public camping and sleeping, and I believe it would have a devastating impact on our communities.

As a resident of Portland, Oregon for over seven years, I have seen firsthand the negative effects of homelessness on our state. There is a general sense of lawlessness and despair. I have seen streets and sidewalks littered with garbage, human waste, and used hypodermic needles, drug use out in the open, unprovoked attacks on innocent people. To allow people the complete freedom to camp anywhere is enabling an issue that is already completely out of control.

House Bill 3501 is not a solution to Portland's homelessness crisis. If anything, House Bill 3501 will only make the homelessness crisis worse. It would send the message that we do not care about the safety and well-being of our citizens, and it would simply make it easier for people to live on the streets.

Businesses have been closing up shop in Portland left and right, with many owners saying it's because of the crime and vandalism they have had to deal with repeatedly, with little to no support from the city. If House Bill 3501 were to go into effect, I have no doubt that even more businesses would close. What business would want to open up shop in a place where the homeless are allowed to camp in front of their store, doing drugs and leaving garbage everywhere?

I urge you to kill House Bill 3501. We need to find real solutions to the problem of homelessness, not just make it easier for people to live on the streets.

Here are some real solutions that we can implement:

-Provide more access to mental health and addiction treatment services

-Create more job training and placement programs

These are just a couple of the things that we can do to help people who are experiencing homelessness. We need to invest in real solutions, not just make it easier for people to live on the streets.

Sincerely,

Lan Truong