

Submitter: Jen K

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To whom it may concern,

I'm deeply disturbed that this bill is being proposed as a solution to the homelessness crisis Portlanders are experiencing. It will continue to enable people in a terrible situation without giving them what they actually need and alienating everyone else.

This bill is also vague. For example:

"SECTION 5. (1) In enacting sections 3 to 6 of this 2023 Act, it is the intent of the Legislative Assembly that:

(a) Persons experiencing homelessness be permitted to use public spaces in the same manner as any other person without discrimination based on their housing status;"

What does this mean? Someone who is technically housed can't just set up a tent in a park and stay indefinitely; there are consequences. Are you stating that homeless people would also be subject to those same consequences? Or, can someone camp in the parking strip in front of my house, that I maintain (and have for many years), leave trash and biohazards and there's nothing that I, nor my neighbors, can do about it? Young children live and play in my neighborhood; don't they deserve to feel safe and free where they live?

I'm not a writer. I'm not a politician. My testimony is not particularly eloquent but I hope my distress is clear. I'm opposed to this bill. Surely, you can come up with better solutions than this.

The way this city continues to be managed breaks my heart. For the first time in many years I question whether or not Portland is the place where I want to be.