

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 12:45 PM

To: Sen Burdick; Rep JenniferWilliamson; Sen Gelser; Sen Dembrow; Sen MonnesAnderson; Sen Kruse; Sen Shields; Sen Steiner Hayward; Rep Frederick; Rep Gallegos

Subject: Right To Rest Bill

My entire family, friends and neighbors are extremely disheartened, disappointed and disturbed about the Right To Rest Bill. It is NOT a solution but perpetuates the litter, loitering and unsafe feelings we have every time we walk around our NW neighborhood and are accosted by drunken beggars who litter and defecate on the street, under the 405 and in Couch Park. We fear for the safety of our children who play there. I have always felt safe in our neighborhood and moved here from the east coast 11 years ago when we fell in love with Portland and all the progressive ideas it had to offer. This is far from progressive. It will encourage unsanitary conditions and safety issues and I strongly disagree with this bill as a solution. I work with various non profits as a volunteer, and have always tried to be a part of the solution not the problem. That said, this year my property tax was over \$11,000. I do not think it is reasonable to live in a wonderful neighborhood, pay for resources and yet have to worry that things will drastically change if this bill is passed. I have voiced my opinion in the past when under the 405 on NW Johnson, there became a tent city of sorts with trash and excrement piling out onto the sidewalks, forcing me to take a different route home although I live on NW Johnson. Things have really cleaned up there and I am pleased with this progress. This bill would be regressive and put an unnecessary stress and drain on our police department and Central City Concern. I urge you to reconsider the ramifications of this bill and search for another viable more effective solution for a growing problem in our city.

I know it is not an easy problem to solve and yes by all means attention needs to be focused on this growing problem. However, focusing, time energy and resources on a "solution" that will merely encourage an already big problem is a waste of taxpayers money and your energy.

My family and I do not believe in getting something for nothing. We are all hard working. If services are offered to the homeless, something should be asked of them in return. I know that providing more mental health services is a big part of the solution and I think energy and money should be directed there. I think eliminating loitering rather than condoning it is a better solution.

If I kept my "living room" the way most of the homeless "living rooms" are, it would be intolerable to live in, as I am sure you would agree, as you walk around our neighborhood. The trash that accompanies the loitering is growing exponentially. We have found used hypodermic needles thrown on our property and when I called the police they responded as if it was commonplace and to be expected living in the city. I am sure you can see that this problem would only increase with the new bill.

I am saddened and worried when I see children playing in Couch park next to a group of clearly drunk people sharing drugs. This new bill would indirectly condone this rather than mitigate this issue. I do know that there is a certain amount of crime and loitering when one chooses to live in a city. I grew up in NYC. However, the increasing tolerance of illegal activities in a wonderful neighborhood, or any neighborhood is unacceptable. I am not a "not in my neighborhood" person. For many winters I drove around town with

scarves, hats and gloves and gave them out to the homeless. I served many meals at the nearby church for the Loaves and Fishes program. I also have handed out Sister's of The Road meal coupons. I have had people actually refuse them since they just wanted money to support their habits rather than a free hot meal.

I am sure you do not want to leave your building and have to climb over a group of people loitering and littering outside your "living room". I believe your efforts could be put to a more productive exploration of solutions, rather than encouraging the problem, even though it seems like the "politically correct" stance to take. Yes attention needs to be directed to this growing problem, Yes, we need solutions. We do not need to feed an already growing problem.

I look forward to following the progress of more productive solutions and your continued hard work to reach them.

Thanks for your time, Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jo Grishman

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