

Blake Jackson

#267193 | March 10, 2021

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

I am a young Father of two young children, born and raised in Portland Oregon. Lately, I am anything but proud to say that. I understand that we are in unprecedented times and face unique challenges but what is going on in our city is beyond unacceptable for our children. People living in complete squalor on our sidewalks, in front of businesses, homes and parks. Open air drug use anywhere and everywhere without regard for the innocent youth. Pollution and litter everywhere! Needles, broken glass, human feces, mattresses, urine and rain soaked clothing beyond recognition laying idle all throughout the city. Tents, upon tents, upon tents. It is for this reason I am one hundred percent vehemently opposed to this bill. Our Parks are our only green/safe space left! The fact that we are even considering letting the homeless set up shop in our parks speaks magnitudes to the mismanagement and neglect of our leaders. Sidewalks gone, storefronts gone, open spaces gone, all to tents and trash. I'll be damned if my 7 year old daughter has to see drug paraphernalia/use, human defecation and more at our local park. My tax dollars pay for that green safe space, if you need more of them to provide shelter and housing you do that, but do not take our children's parks away. **NO TEMPORARY HOUSING IN OUR PARKS!**

Testimony is presented without formatting.