

# Rebecca Bremner

**#267688 | March 15, 2021**

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

There is no question that homelessness is an enormous problem in Portland. I am a physician who cycles from SW Portland to the Pearl daily for work. I am heartbroken and frustrated to bike past the enormous homeless gatherings along my way which include tents, enormous amounts of garbage including drug paraphernalia - it is only getting worse over the past 3-4 years. I know a solution (likely several) needs to be found - but allowing camping in our public spaces is not a reasonable solution. Our public parks are not adequately set up for services for the homeless - and are vitally important for recreation, peace and connection with nature for all of our tax paying neighbors/citizens. I have not infrequently felt threatened and uncomfortable on my in-the-dark commute to work by the presence of groups of homeless, often men. There is no way that their being housed in our precious city parks will not drive out all the Portland citizens who rely on safe, accessible public spaces.

Testimony is presented without formatting.