

Robert Gillespie

#279194 | March 29, 2021

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

As a pediatrician, I am concerned about the proposal to allow homeless to camp in city parks. We are in the midst of a childhood obesity epidemic, which has been worsened by the pandemic and stay-at-home orders; taking away open spaces where children can play will continue to worsen the physical and mental health of the children under our care. Children who live in multi-family housing or apartments only have public parks as places to play; the proposal to allow homeless to camp in public parks will disproportionately affect low income and minority children by removing their only avenue for physical activity. Please remove this provision from the proposals.

Testimony is presented without formatting.