

Anonymous Citizen

#279333 | March 30, 2021

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

I'm not sure if you will read my testimony as I've submitted it as anonymous, but I implore that you do. I am afraid of what would happen to me if I publicly made the following statements. The amount of aggression and violence from those defending homeless people and campers has made me worried for my career and my reputation if I suggest anything about enforcing public policy for this population. I do not believe we should be relaxing our city policies on campers in parks, playgrounds, and school grounds. I have a toddler who has repeatedly found needles, trash, and human feces on playgrounds surrounded by homeless encampments. I fully support expanding housing options, but we can't couple that with relaxing restrictions in protected parts of the city. I happily voted in favor of the additional parks & schools taxes on the ballot, and it makes that ballot feel like a bait-and-switch if our parks & schools are instead made unsafe for my children. I'm sad that what I just said is controversial. I'm sad that the state of discourse means that the loudest, most aggressive voices are the ones that are listened to. I want people to have housing, and I want to keep public places public. For the first time in over a year, I would like to take my toddler to a playground.

Testimony is presented without formatting.