I write this as an individual citizen supporting those who are un-housed and urge you to vote yes on HB 2916A.

My work in Eugene is as medical director of the Lane County Methadone Treatment Program. I also serve as president of Community Supported Shelters Board of Directors.

I am writing to express my support for expanding transitional housing accommodations allowed inside the urban growth boundary to include other structures like huts, pods, tepees, yurts, or tents. We have an emergency shelter crisis in Oregon and we need options that can be deployed quickly and within the resources currently available.

People experiencing homelessness need a safe place to sleep and shelter from bad weather, to securely store belongings, and to access facilities while waiting for more permanent housing to become available. In my work and service I note our work to be more effective if our patients/clients reside in a stable location in order to receive care and reduce costly and stressful trips to the emergency room for treatment. Allowing alternative structures within the city limits and managed transitional housing campgrounds will allow wrap around care to ensure our community provides the best outcomes to our most vulnerable populations.

With appreciation for your attention to this matter.

Douglas L. Bovee, MD