

Research has found that Oregon's most populous cities and counties have 224 laws that criminalize necessary life-sustaining activities like sitting, lying, resting, or eating in public. When someone has nowhere else to do these things, fines, fees, and a criminal record only further entrenches them in homelessness. Oregonians living on the street are forced make impossible choices to go about their daily lives.

When enough hardships collide - you lose your job, healthcare, food stamps, housing, leave a domestic violence situation - you end up with no place to go. Before you can get back on your feet, you need to survive- to sleep, eat, bathe, and seek shelter. Many of Oregon's city and state laws punish you for this. Instead of sleeping and resting, you are harassed, constantly moved, criminalized, and pushed to new levels of exhaustion and poor health.

Oregon has an opportunity to course correct. The Right to Rest Act decriminalizes rest and prohibits discrimination based on housing status. It also acknowledges the role that economic hardship, housing instability, lack of access to services, and unemployment all play in homelessness. Right to Rest sets us on a path that replaces outdated, inhumane, and ineffective laws with solutions that protect and respect the health and well-being of people facing incredible hardship. judges to DAs.