

Testimony for HB 2367:

Dear Committee Members,

The Right to Rest Act is critical for un-housed people to obtain sleep and retain cognition. The cognition or ability to think is what prevents poor decision-making and prevents development of more successful living in the rough or not. Please recognize this. It is a physical fact, applicable to every human being.

The other associated Right which ought to be protected by law is the Right to Consumer Education. Since the 1980s schools have not seen this segment of education as their mission. And since then, American consumer systems of housing, food, law, finance, medicine, consumer protection, education and employment have become intolerably complicated. The cognitive load for poorer people, most likely to lose housing, is overwhelming. People often lose their housing because they do not understand how to make the correct life/living decisions. Note that: "Knowledge is the only means to power that the poor can access."

If Oregon wants to live up to its socially innovative reputation and PREVENT HOMELESSNESS upstream, before all the alleviation issues surface, it should be the only state in the nation that mandates the teaching of consumer protection. Prevent the problem at its core by helping people understand how to navigate the US systems that are endemic. Educate. Support a new law, the Right to Consumer Education.

Sandra Ericson