

I am extraordinarily happy to support this bill. I am grateful that members of the legislature have identified the need to protect the privacy and dignity of our unhoused neighbors. In Portland alone, roughly half of the arrests carried out each year are of homeless people, largely in response to innocuous, unavoidable activities, a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars and time. This bill will allow our communities to redirect that money to meaningful, life-affirming solutions that will provide our neighbors with safety and material support rather than criminalization and disrespect.