

I support the passage of HB 2367. Lack of access to housing, shelter, and healthcare are failures of society. Not of the individual. The fact that so many of our community members go without what should be basic human rights is the real crime. Sweeps kill. Those deaths are on the hands of our government officials. Sweeps have also proven to be entirely ineffective in making any sort of meaningful positive change to what is a systemic problem.

With more and more people in Oregon finding themselves houseless or on the verge of houselessness, our focus should be on expanding affordable and NO COST housing in the urban areas rather than punishing those who are houseless. Portland needs to stop wasting money on harassing people who have already been marginalized by our society. Criminalizing lack of housing when we have not done enough in Oregon to ensure everyone has a stable place to call home narrows opportunities to escape houselessness and creates more barriers on the path to stability and prosperity.

HB 2367 would safeguard the dignity of those who already suffer from the burden of houselessness. I implore you to support this critical and life-saving legislation.

Cole Somers
1605 NE Rosa Parks Way Portland, OR
503 989 3958