

To the Oregon House Committee On Judiciary:

I support the passage of HB 2367.

Houseless folks deserve a safe place to keep their medications, their worldly belongings, and feel safe to sleep without being at risk of everything being taken from them. I have seen folks who have had their cars towed away with all their belonging in them, and not be able to afford to get it out of the towing yard. People deserve to be able to get to their things, and not come home from work to see their housing destroyed or taken away.

Sweeps have left people in worse situations. What is the benefit of a sweep? So people don't have to look at folks living outside? Who do we care about? What does the community want to solve? These are questions to ask yourself.

I am a white musician and covid has taken away my livelihood. I am moments away from living in my car without community and government support. Portland needs affordable housing or the most creative folks will all end up with all their belongings taken from them. Punishing folks for going through hard times doesn't solve these problems.

There is so many empty newly build apartment buildings in this city that if the rent prices were lowered, folks could have somewhere to live. This bill is a start to making an actual change in Portland for the better. People who live on the streets are important members of our city, and they deserve to rest without punishment.