

Homeless people are some of the most vulnerable people in our society today. Too many people in our society look at an encampment of homeless people as a blight on their city and think that the thing to do should be to remove them from public view or chase them out of the city entirely. Not enough emphasis is put on providing these people with the help they need. In many places around Oregon including here in Salem, local city governments have attempted to enact laws that criminalize people just for living outside. This is inhumane and there should be no debate that creating financial penalties just for being in an outdoor space, especially when you don't have a home to return to, is wrong. This bill would make it harder to enforce such heinous penalties and that is why I am urging the House Committee on Judiciary to support this bill in its entirety.