

House Committee on the Judiciary and Staff,

Thank you for considering my testimony. I'm writing in support of HB 2367 because we are at a critical time in the housing crisis in Oregon. Thousands have been pushed out of stable housing and tens of thousands more are on the brink due to the pandemic and corresponding economic downturn. These are the most vulnerable members of the community and they already face incredible odds to get back into stable and dignified housing.

Today most cities employ sweeps and dedicate a majority of the time and effort of their policing to simply harassing and arresting the houseless people who have nowhere else to go. While we work on measures to build urgently needed capacity, lets finally give protection to the very poorest Oregonians who are simply looking for safe places to rest.

To recognize and codify these rights will not tie the hands of law enforcement to enforce actual crimes in the community, nor will it prevent efforts to provide sanitation and clean up of sanctioned and unsanctioned shelters in our communities. It will however give some small measure of protection for the most vulnerable and instead allow us to focus our resources on the root causes of the housing crisis and not just how it appears.

I thank you for your consideration.