

To the Oregon House Committee On Judiciary on behalf of HB 2367:

To be typing this seems beyond words to what it implies, in our state of Oregon, especially in larger metropolitan areas, our legislature, structures, and people in office have a complete disregard for the lives of those most affected by houselessness: poor people, people of color and disabled people. The idea of criminalizing their survival, though the fault falls on the back of the Oregon legislature, should be obviously defined as scape goat-ism. You have hundreds of individuals daily reaching out, providing medic skills, social services, nurses, doctors, those predominately being volunteers (THAT'S UNPAID) through wildfires, a global pandemic, winter weather, coming together to provide support to our unhoused neighbors. Our community is being expended, we have been fighting for years for affordable, low barrier housing, accessible healthcare, BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. Yet to what finding? Our unhoused neighbors are still being disproportionally swept, criminalized, harassed, and killed due to the lack of affordable, stable, and safe, places to rest.

I'm here on behalf of myself, our unhoused neighbors, our advocates, and Occupy Medical of Eugene, to support the passage of HB 2367, as it protects individuals' right to move freely, rest, sleep, and be protected in public space without discrimination. Continually criminalizing human existence in public spaces perpetuates the cycle of houselessness. We are asking you Oregon House Committee to step up, open your eyes, do your research and quit continually perpetuating these systematic issues your community members are forced to navigate.

We must do something to continue the work so many people are fighting for. If we can't change the whole system, we have to be able to work within it, build structures under it, and protect the ones affected most, from those keeping them down.