



TO: House Judiciary Committee

This letter is sent on behalf of the Justice Study Group of Multnomah Democrats' Platform Committee.

The Justice Study Group of the Multnomah County Democrats writes **in support of HB 2367, the Right to Rest Act.**

Basic Human Rights are the subject of the first Article of the Multnomah County Democrats Platform. Plank 4 of Article 1 states:

"We believe in the right of every person to rest, recreation, hygiene, sanitation, clean air, water, private shelter, and healthy food."

And that is why we write in support of HB 2367. We know that, given our core values and those of our society, **these basic needs are the needs of all of us. HB2367 makes it clear that Oregonians believe that human rights really are for all humans.** We live in unprecedented times. The impacts of gentrification and wealth inequality, compounded by the pandemic, have made criminals of those who face foreclosure and eviction. We need to be aware of this and act now with compassion.

What the bill does*:

- Protect the houseless people's right to move freely, rest and sleep in public spaces
- Ensure houseless people will connect with outreach and appropriate services
- Protect the right of people to eat and share food in public
- Protect the right of people to occupy a legally parked vehicle

What the bill does not do*:

- Does not permit anyone, houseless or not, to harass people on the streets or maliciously block sidewalks
- Does not allow people to urinate and defecate publicly or to spread trash
- Does not allow people to harm or interfere with local business operations
- Does not grant houseless people 'special rights' or infringe on anyone's property rights

The Multnomah Democrats **strongly agree** that every person in this state should be able to exercise the rights described in this bill without being subject to harassment, citation or arrest by law enforcement officers, public or private security personnel or employees of local governments.

* Western Regional Advocacy Project (wraphome.org homeless bill of rights oregon)