

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the Right to Rest Act HB 2367 that is currently being sponsored by Rep's Campos, Grayber and Pham.

I am very much in favor of this bill's objective of decriminalizing homelessness.

I have seen first hand how disruptive it can be to the efforts of the unhoused simply to survive when they are continually displaced and criminalized by local government and police forces instead of being allowed their basic human rights to rest and have some stability to their location.

As the numbers of homeless people in my home town of Eugene, around the state of Oregon and across the country continue to increase dramatically, it is clear to me that efforts to police these fellow human beings out of sight and mind of our communities at large are inhumane and counter-productive. Inhumane because it is impossible for anyone to find stable work and housing when they are sleep-deprived, uncertain when they may lose all their belongings, constantly having to move from one location to another under duress, and burdened with criminal records resulting from non-violent "crimes of survival". Counter-productive because, as so many dedicated advocates for the unhoused, in and out of government, have known and shared for so long, decriminalizing homelessness and providing housing and supportive services are much more successful and cost-effective approaches to reducing homelessness.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Max Rink