

Hello Chair Bynum, Party Leadership in charge of which bill gets a floor vote, and Committee,

I'm writing along with many distinguished organizations in favor of the Right to Rest Bill HB 2367.

The intent of HB 2367 emerged after talking with the people on the receiving end of criminalization for basic human needs to rest.

The need to rest should not be criminalized. When it comes to city, business and police entities confronting resting people with criminalization, cities and counties should not be given the opportunity to do what they and the businesses with the loud voices say is "reasonable". I have seen what many of these entities consider "reasonable", and I strongly prefer a statewide regulation that bans criminalization of acts of rest.

Resting is not to be mixed up with criminality.

Anti-homeless bigotry, which I have witnessed to such shocking extent in Oregon towns and police force leadership such as Commander Hurley, is not to be confused with any other euphemism such as "humanely addressing the problem." I've personally found the overall system around impoverished and marginalized people to be too regularly dehumanizing and inhumane, and it's government's job to actively build something far better, outside of this current failed model.

In Portland, with rent high, housing in short supply, and appropriate wrap-around services inadequate, I have witnessed a sustained criminalization of people on the streets. What city officials sometimes seek to define as systemically "reasonable", I have often found to be rather barbaric. Courts, handcuffs, threats, fees, jail cells, bigotry and charges have not been, and will never be the answers to problems that lead to people sleeping and resting outside. ?I am concerned that the city-preferred replacement bill for HB 2367 will actually allow the codification and entrenchment of city-police-business-coordinated policy that will make the eventual implementation of HB 2367 much more difficult and political than it ever needs to be.?Thank you for your serious consideration of voting to move HB 2367 onto the House Floor for a vote, as its distinguished co-sponsors envision.