



House Committee on Judiciary Chair Rep. Janelle Bynum Vice-Chairs Reps Ron Noble and Karin Power Committee Members Reps Ken Helm, Jason Kropf, Rick Lewis, Lily Morgan, Kim Wallan, Maxine Dexter and Marty Wilde CC: Reps Wlnsvy Campos (sponsor), Khanh Pham, Dacia Grayber, Andrea Valderrama and Maxine Dexter (co'sponsors)

Re: Support Right To Rest Act HB 2367

Dear Chair Bynum,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) in support of HB 2367 regarding the right of people to rest in public spaces. CAT formed in 1996. CAT is Oregon's only statewide, grassroots, tenant-controlled, tenant-rights organization. CAT educates, organizes and develops the leadership of low-income tenants. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So, we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies.

The solution to homelessness is permanent housing. We must work together to ensure that truly affordable, accessible and adequate housing is available to all who need it. Such a solution to homelessness is not being implemented today. Instead, people who lack housing and must conduct survival activities in public spaces are being criminalized. Criminalization is violent, unjust, counterproductive, and creates barriers that prevent people from getting off the streets. By criminalizing homelessness instead of dealing with its root causes, local governments are forcing homeless people into hidden, and therefore less secure, areas-- where the risk of being attacked is increased. Criminalizing homelessness instead of providing appropriate solutions sends the message that "homeless lives don't matter."

The Housing Crisis, is made much worse by the public health crisis of COVID-19. Do not allow our municipalities to criminalize people and community trying to help each other.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty

Kim McCarty
Executive Director
Community Alliance of Tenants



community
alliance of
tenants