

Oregon House Judiciary Committee
Submitted via online portal

Re: Support for HB 2367, Right to Rest Act

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

I am the chairperson of the Democratic Party of Douglas County and writing to you to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 2367 on their behalf. Our local central committee voted to endorse the Right to Rest Act because it is consistent with our position that housing is a human right and being homeless should not be a crime.

We believe that everyone would be best served if the Right to Rest Act became law. Not only those living outside would benefit, we all would. Our office is in downtown Roseburg and not a day goes by that we cannot see the tragedy of homelessness out our window. Douglas County Democrats believe that acts-of-living laws only contribute to our inability to effectively address this tragedy and are simply bad public policy that must be changed.

Unfortunately our local elected officials continue the bad laws they created, which are not only ineffective in addressing homelessness but have been declared unconstitutional by courts. We cannot continue to allow local laws that violate the rights of those living outside. The Right to Rest Act will put pressure on local officials to take a different approach to address the problems of homelessness.

Finding solutions to ending homelessness should not be a partisan issue nor should protecting the rights of our unhoused neighbors. I ask you to support this bill and the right of every Oregonian to rest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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