

I am writing to convey strong support of HB 3115, sponsored by House Speaker Tina Kotek. The bill summary says that HB3115 "Provides that local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness."

Currently our unsheltered community members do not have the luxury of having a safe, secure place to sleep leaving them in a state of constant chaos and anxiety. I have seen firsthand the unsheltered being shooed along from sidewalk to sidewalk without the ability to even catch their breath. Our park benches have been removed, public transit buildings have shut off their outside electrical outlets so people can no longer charge their devices, which are their only means of staying connected to services which may help them find their way out of homelessness. Our city, the capitol city of this amazing state, has become cruel to its very own citizens. People are dying on our streets. People have nowhere to go.

Our camping ban forbids any structure with a roof, leaving people exposed to the elements. Again, people are already dying on the streets and dying in camps. People with significant physical disabilities, people with suffering from significant mental health struggles, ELDERLY PEOPLE, find themselves hopeless and in despair, living outside. Each unsheltered individual is someone's mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter. Any one of us could become homeless. I hope that we are not morally okay with applying inhumane bans to real people, real hearts, real lives. HB3115 is one way to keep us legally safe by insuring we are aligned with applicable rulings, balanced with the reality that we have a humanitarian crisis, where people are sick, hungry, disabled, hopeless, traumatized, and cold, falling through the cracks, and dying in the crevices. HB3115 keeps us legally safe as it also sets a level of humane-ness that I hope we all believe in.

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