

As an Oregon Taxpayer I find it detestable that the money I pay to our state is used to enforce laws that criminalize my neighbors for sleeping. When this bill was last proposed in 2017, researchers found that Denver spent \$3.23 million dollars of taxpayer dollars over a 5-year period enforcing anti-homeless ordinances. In that same time, Seattle spent \$2.3 million and Spokane spent \$1.35 million.

What's worse, these enforcement actions tie up policing resources and trap houseless Oregonians in a near-unbreakable cycle of criminal justice engagements- arrest, jail time, and court dates get in the way of folks finding work, finding housing, and attending school. As though this wasn't enough, the financial burdens cause additional barriers to getting housed. Citations and fees levied against already destitute Oregonians often go unpaid and are sent to collections, putting poor Oregonians in a horrific cycle of debt. There's a better path forward for Oregon. We know that the current system of policing activities like sleeping and finding shelter isn't working. I believe in better, and passing HB 2367 is a step in the right direction. Please stop wasting Taxpayer dollars on outdated ideas and embrace forward thinking, fiscally responsible solutions.