

Submitter: Rich Rohde  
On Behalf Of: Southern Oregon Housing For All  
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness  
Measure: HB3501

Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness.

I am a longtime resident in southern Oregon, and I have also for a long time been supporting community efforts to address our housing crisis and solutions for the unhoused individual and families that experience deep personal crises when they have no legal place to sleep or find rest. Additionally a large percentage of unhoused are also facing untreated or treat mental health and addiction health problems. In southern Oregon we have made some progress in developing beds, shelter, navigators and some success in rehousing folks. But we are only getting started and the gap of folks who are on the street and those housed or shelters is still growing. I strongly urge that each of you support HB 3501 as the best way we have now to respond the growing number of folk sleeping outside. We can stop criminalizing sleep and support reasonable strategies for collaboration with shelter programs as they are getting established. A thorough reading of HB 3501 gives a fair and strategic approach that is legal, moral, strategic and practical.

Please listen to the voices that are based in compassion and not those based in fear.

Thank You,

Rich Rohde Southern Oregon Housing for All.