

Submitter: Lain Malka Vineyard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

Having a space where you feel secure is such a critical part of our lives—and the foundational aspect of it is easy to overlook if you're someone who has never suffered the hardship of being without a home, or if you've never experienced the sort of despair that manifests from being in an environment that feels completely and is steadily unsafe. When that's the sort of living situation you're in, every problem is magnified a dozen times over and doing anything to improve your position can feel like an insurmountable task.

Programs like Community Support Shelters in Eugene are essential to helping establish the stability needed by the homeless in our communities. And despite all they and other organizations have done, by simply walking around our cities it's easy to see that there's so much more that we have to work towards.

HB 3644 is both a demonstration of our capacity to care for the disadvantaged in our communities and a recognition that we can and need to support one another when life is at its most difficult. Many of us are one accident or unlucky hospital bill away from losing our homes or our apartments and ending up in a position where we'd need to rely on the kindness of others.

Expanding our funding for these programs is not the only step, but a very important one in addressing the crisis we're seeing in our cities. Please give this bill your full support to ensure these organizations are able to continue operating and making a difference in our communities, through the long-term solutions and services they provide to those of us experiencing homelessness. Thank you.