

Submitter: Tina Willard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

I am vehemently against HB 3644. This is a waste of taxpayer money for a situation that has gotten worse, not better, after throwing millions of dollars at it. The vast majority of homeless people are experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues. There has been little to no increase in treatment facilities for either of these issues. No accountability has been shown as to how and where this money has already gone, what EXACTLY was it spent on?

As someone who grew up here, I have seen nothing but irresponsible spending by the State of Oregon, the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

Giving an addict free housing with no boundaries or restrictions, not making getting and staying clean as a benefit to free housing, will not solve the addiction issue. This only enables the addict to use, commit crimes to fund their addiction and risks ongoing harm to others.

For those suffering serious mental health issues, housing without monitoring their medication and mental state, risks them being taken advantage of.

How the State, City, and County has managed this issue is nothing short of cruel. You aren't helping and you certainly aren't solving the problems. Charities and nonprofits are useless in this area. Those working for them seem to know that should this issue be addressed seriously and solved, their money goes away.

No more money thrown at the homeless industrial complex. Build treatment and mental health facilities first.

Enough is enough. Do NOT pass this irresponsible bill.