

Submitter: Victoria Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

I am a deeply concerned Oregonian and fourth-generation NE Portland resident. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 4644, which would establish a costly statewide shelter program with regional coordinators—yet another expensive initiative that fails to address the root causes of homelessness.

When the Metro Supportive Housing Services Income Tax was introduced, I was an Insurance Agency Manager overseeing three locations and 20 employees, while my husband worked for a global auto dealership brand in Portland. After reviewing our taxes, we realized nearly half of our income went to federal, state, and Multnomah County taxes. The following year, after reassessing the financial impact of the Metro tax, we determined it was no longer worth it for me to keep working. Ultimately, my employer relocated the agency to Washington State, eliminating jobs for all Oregon-based employees. More recently, my husband also left his Portland job for a dealership in Vancouver, WA, and now, we are considering leaving Oregon entirely due to the overwhelming tax burden. It is heartbreaking to think about leaving NE Portland, but the economic and policy environment has made it increasingly difficult to stay.

HB 4644 perpetuates a broken system that prioritizes spending over accountability. Oregon has poured billions into homelessness programs with little to show for it. Meanwhile, our neighborhoods are overrun by encampments, local businesses are struggling, and public safety is deteriorating.

Please consider that many of the individuals in these growing encampments move to Oregon to take advantage of our lenient policies. A significant portion of those living in tents and RVs are battling addiction and refusing help. Simply throwing more money at the issue will not fix it.

Oregon needs a new strategy—one that prioritizes fiscal responsibility and draws from proven solutions in neighboring states that have managed this crisis more effectively. We must stop enabling open drug use, lawlessness, and unsafe conditions.

As a taxpayer and voter, I urge you to reevaluate public spending and ensure that taxpayer dollars are funding solutions that truly benefit our communities. I invite you to visit NE Portland and see firsthand how these policies have harmed our city.

Oregonians are losing faith in their government's ability to resolve this crisis. If

lawmakers continue to spend without accountability, businesses will leave, families will relocate, and the state's economy will suffer. Portland is already losing taxpaying residents and employers—how much more damage must occur before real change happens?

Reject HB 4644 and adopt a new approach—one that stops enabling homelessness and restores public safety, accountability, and economic stability.

Sincerely, Victoria Hall