



Homeless Transitions Action Group (HTAG)

March 23, 2023

TO: Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for approving SB 847-5

The Douglas County, Or Homeless Transitions Action Group is a partnership of agencies in Douglas County Or networking to resolve homeless issues in our community. As Oregon continues to experience a housing and homeless crisis, recent state investments in shelter and services have yet to reach all communities in the state. Rural areas continue to be significantly underfunded. Cities and counties located in the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care have historically received less federal funding and state investment to assist in addressing various services and aspects of care.

HTAG would like to assist in establishing safe resting places and urban campgrounds to provide unhoused community members with basic amenities. Douglas County currently does not have the capacity to withstand the legal challenges associated with offering designated safe resting places or campgrounds with basic services.

The liability limitations outlined in SB 847-5 encourages rural communities to designate safe resting places and campgrounds while providing unhoused residents a location for a tent shelter or vehicle and keep their belongings away from hazardous areas, sensitive environmental lands and high traffic neighborhoods. Basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and waste management services provided will improve access to emergency services.

HTAG firmly supports this measure's capacity to improve access to care and resources for small, rural communities throughout Oregon. Please approve SB 847-5 and similar measures to help address this critical need.

Sincerely,

Janeal Kohler
HTAG Representative
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