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To: Oregon State Legislature

RE: In support of liability-protected safe resting place for homeless individuals

As Oregon continues to experience a housing and homelessness crisis, recent state investments in shelter and services have yet to reach all communities who are impacted. The rural area Balance of State Continuum of Care will continue to be significantly underfunded. We need federal and state investment to assist in addressing homeless services.

Onward Roseburg uses street outreach to engage our community's unhoused residents and encourage them to participate in services and access housing. We help them to apply for Social Security benefits, obtain state identification, secure housing, offer mail service, and provide medical advocacy. Our purpose is to walk with people as they identify and achieve their goals.

By limiting liability, SB 847-5 encourages rural communities to designate safe resting places and campgrounds while providing unhoused residents with reliable access to a space where they can erect a tent or park a vehicle, keep their property safe and away from hazardous areas, sensitive environmental lands, high traffic neighborhoods, and rights of way. Basic services will include safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and waste management. A safe resting place will improve access to all homeless services.

Onward Roseburg supports SB 847-5 to improve access to services and the well-being of the residents. We strongly urge the legislature to approve SB 847-5 to help address this critical need.

Thank you.

Kimetha Stallings

Kimetha Stallings
Executive Director