

To Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 850 both as a citizen in general, and also, as a long time advocate for the unsheltered. As we know, the Salem Police Department, has a strongly-stated need to track and analyze more such data to increase the safety of all persons involved, a need echoed formally and informally in many municipalities, as they struggle to identify needs, trends and gaps in service, resource delivery, and whether and where discrimination is occurring in regard to unsheltered persons who are a highly endangered demographic. This bill will enable more effective service and collaboration, reflecting not only how policies and rules play out, but also simply reflecting and according basic human dignity and humanity to our unsheltered residents. Real data enables 1) a more accurate picture ,2) a way to acknowledge their lives, and 3) data to help us figure out how to do what is needed in the future. Of course, more people have died on the streets than are reported, and the unsheltered community, as a whole, know who they are. We need to, also.

Please vote to support SB850.

Thank you for your consideration,

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