

Dear Members of the House Committee on Housing,

I am writing today in strong support of this bill, HB3124.

Here in Eugene I have witnessed first hand the ill effects of 24hr removal notices for people in established camping sites - people who are unhoused in general simply cannot respond to requirements to move themselves and all their belongings in a safe and orderly manner in such a short period of time. Although our city's published policy is to give a total of 72 hours notice (48 hours to come into compliance with criteria for temporary urban camping which are usually impossible to meet without intensive outside support, followed by what amounts to a 24hr eviction notice) this has not always been observed and police officers enforcing sweeps have referred 72 hours as a courtesy the city is not required to extend. Making 72 hour notice the mandatory minimum would at least do something reduce the stress of forced removals on our most vulnerable community members and allow their concerned neighbors a greater opportunity to help them.

I also welcome this bills' provisions for mandating that local governments keep track of, store and make it possible to reclaim homeless peoples' belongings after a forced removal. I have witnessed our city's cavalier treatment of homeless peoples' belongings - where everything that they cannot move before a sweep occurs is simply bagged indiscriminately, with no identifying labels or marks applied and heaped high and without segregation into city utility trucks, all with no receipts given. And there is no evidence to suggest that belongings that have been removed in this fashion have ever in fact been restored to their owners at a later date and not simply dumped - which is simply inhumane as well as unconstitutional.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Max Rink