

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care - Senator Deb Patterson, Chair; Senator Tim Knopp, Vice Chair; and Senators Lee Beyer, Dallas Heard, James Manning Jr.

I am writing to convey strong support of Senate Bill 850. This Bill would require that reports of death indicates the housing status of the decedent.

SB 850 reflects the recent Police Department audit findings that identifies the need for the Police Department to track and analyze more data to improve decision making, situational awareness, productivity, efficiency, transparency, and collaboration with partner agencies. Data tracking also enables us to identify trends, needs, gaps, potential disparity in policing and deaths, and best use of resources.

A public reporting requirement to reflect whether someone died homeless in Oregon would provide evidence of what we currently know by word of mouth and by personal times of witnessing extreme poverty, illness, and death as people on the streets struggle to survive each day, with a severe lack of resources to meet basic human needs.

Beyond the valuable uses of that data, a public reporting requirement to reflect whether someone died homeless in Oregon also shows humanity and dignity. So many people who are homeless on the streets are minimized, overlooked, and discounted daily. SB 850 would require that we indicate housing status as we count and acknowledge their deaths.

These people died during this last year or so. We know there are others. SB 850 would enable us to know more of their names, their lives, their deaths.

Chris Rice • Montana Wayne Carver • Theresa Hennen • Monni Braff • Janeen Marie Dewey • Robyn Gonzalez • Michael Reves • Roy McCune • Brian Jackman • Scotty Parker • Kevin

Please support SB 850.

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