

I Support-The Right to Rest Act
HB 2367

I support the Right to Rest Act. I believe that conducting sweeps on unsanctioned campsites is inefficient at best, and almost always inhumane. "Sweeping" camps and displacing the inhabitants, who have no other place to go, is an ineffective health and safety strategy as well, especially during the pandemic. Advocates across the country question the legality of disassembling camps as well as citing individuals for sleeping outdoors.

In Lane County, we homeless advocates would like to see outdoor areas designated for camping, rather than publishing a long and complicated set of guidelines specifying where people cannot camp. It is unfortunate that too much blame is cast on the entire homeless population—which is actually quite diverse—for the misconduct of those few who litter and commit crime.

In our city, unhealthy and unsafe conditions are the reasons given for disassembling camps. It would seem to be more cost effective to keep people in the same place with an ample number of dumpsters, trashcans, porta potties and handwashing stations, rather than to disperse them to still other outdoor locations, which likely will be dissembled.