

Submitter: Amanda Coers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

Testimony in Support of HB 3644

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Coers, and I am writing to urge your support for HB 3644. This bill is critical for maintaining shelter programs in Lane County. Our community is facing a severe homelessness crisis. More than 3,500 people need shelter on any given night, but there are less than half that number of shelter spaces available. That leaves thousands of people sleeping in unsafe conditions, including doorways, parks, under bridges, and along the river.

Lane County has made real efforts to address this issue by expanding shelter options. Organizations and advocates have worked together to create a range of shelters. Group shelters, vehicle sites, indoor spaces with individual tents, and village-style communities provide safety, stability, and a path to permanent housing. These shelters are always full, with long waitlists, showing how critical they are to the community.

Community Supported Shelters is one example of an organization making a significant impact. Their transitional programs help people regain stability and connect with essential resources. Without continued funding, these programs are at risk, and more people will be left without support.

HB 3644 is essential to keeping these shelters open and operational. It is an investment in real solutions and a commitment to making sure everyone in Lane County has access to safe shelter. Please vote in favor of HB 3644.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Coers
Concerned Citizen and Community Advocate