

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melissa Burgess, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3644. Oregon has made important strides in addressing homelessness in our state, but without a stable, long-term approach, too many people will continue to fall through the cracks. Communities across the state need the resources and structure to provide safe, reliable shelter.

We need a sustainable statewide shelter program that prioritizes local coordination, flexibility, and accountability. A key part of this bill is its regional coordination model, which recognizes that each part of the state faces different challenges. By allowing local service providers to manage their own regional plans, they can actually meet the needs of the people in those communities in real time.

Homelessness is one of the most urgent issues facing Oregon. We need a system that isn't just reactive but proactive, stable, and effective. HB 3644 provides exactly that. I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Melissa Burgess