

To: Oregon House Committee On Judiciary

Please support passage of HB 2367, protecting community rights to move freely, rest and safely sleep in our public commons without discrimination or harassments. Rest is a basic human and civil right for all people and a necessity that should never be considered a crime.

Criminalizing people who are experiencing houselessness is not an effective solution but an exacerbation of their plight. Given that Oregon Families are finding themselves houseless or experiencing housing insecurity, our focus must be on expanding affordable housing capacity in the urban areas rather than punishing those who are houseless. We know that when all our neighbors have the opportunity to build foundations for economic stability, our communities and state thrive. Criminalizing lack of housing when we have not done enough in Oregon to ensure everyone has a stable place to call home narrows opportunities to escape houselessness and creates more barriers on the path to stability and prosperity.

HB 2367 would safeguard the dignity of those who already suffer from the burden of houselessness. I implore you to support this critical and life-saving legislation as well as finding preventative and restorative solutions.