

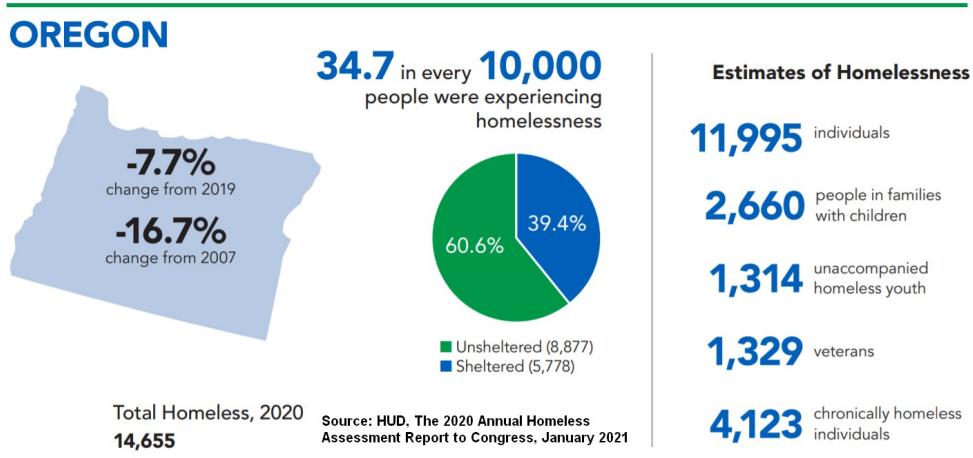
## **HB 3261, Support: Allows conversion of motel/hotel properties into emergency shelters or affordable housing, Albert LePage, Eugene, Oregon**

*Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, Committee Members*

Let's begin with a picture, which is worth a thousand words . . .

However, if you want more than a thousand words, and documentation, this link to ["The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress,"](#) January 2021 by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development provides more detailed information about the seriousness of homelessness in Oregon.

Next, I offer these three short comments.



1. Oregon is moving in the right direction, but **homelessness is still definitely a real problem**.
2. **HB 3261 offers an innovative and simple solution** to provide emergency shelters and affordable housing for the homeless.
3. **HB 3261 is not seeking an appropriation** from the legislature or state taxpayers.

**One more important point . . .** Numbers above are **based on data from January 2020, BEFORE the pandemic hit,\*** with all its eventual, continuing and **still evolving impacts, with the potential to increase homelessness.**

Therefore, the potential that **HB 3261 offers for both the immediate and long-term future** is an obvious tool that **can provide for the need of shelter and housing.**

Finally, let me share this "comment" with you . . .

*" . . . For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in . . . "*

This bill gives communities around the state a way to "take the homeless in" . . . from the cold and heat . . . from the wet and the wind . . . Amen.'

Respectfully . . . and earnestly,

Albert LePage, Eugene, Oregon



*Image: HUD report*

\* [Federal analysis shows Oregon's homeless population in decline prior to pandemic, OPB article, March 19, 2021](#)