

I am writing in support of HB 2367. I am dismayed at the exponential rise in homelessness that I observe every day in Portland. In a city where the cost of buying house has increased exponentially and along with it the cost of rent and the federal minimum wage has remained at \$7.50 per hour what do we expect. I am not a good mathematician but even I can see that this does not add up. To turn someone into a criminal because they cannot afford to pay rent is cruel and prevents them further from raising themselves out of homelessness. I see encampments next to freeways where there is toxic pollution and loud noise. How do we help the problem by paying more police to scurry them to another area or cite them for the acts of survival. What is the root of this problem? It is poverty and the defunding of the housing safety net. What we see is the logical outcome of these bankrupt policies. Housing is a basic human right especially in the richest country in the world. Please pass this bill. These people are our neighbors.