

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

April 10th, 2021

RE: HB 2367

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon. My name is Andrea Valderrama. I use she/her/ella pronouns, and I have the pleasure of serving as the State Representative for House District 47, outer east Portland and on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas Bands of the Chinook and many other tribes who made their home along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

I am an ardent supporter of HB 2367, the Right to Rest act because I believe in stopping the criminalization of necessary life-sustaining activities such as sitting, lying, resting, or eating in public for our houseless community.

No one should be criminalized for finding respite in the areas they're been displaced to, especially if those same activities are public and legal for housed people. The right to rest is deeply personal to me and many others in House District 47. As a child, I remember what it's like to not have stable housing, or to not know where you're going to sleep next. My story and that of many others is one of the many intersecting reasons that people experience housing instability along with an untreated serious mental health issues, disability, and more.

These intersecting issues are exacerbated by the pandemic making HB 2367 needed now more than ever. With over 4,000 houseless Oregonians in Multnomah County alone, we cannot allow for the harassment, discrimination, and criminal punishment of houseless people for actions which are integral to their survival, when we should be investing in wraparound services like more affordable housing, shelters, and more.

I urge you to pass HB 2367 out of committee with a 'Do Pass' recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Rep. Andrea Valderrama

House District 47