

My name is Don Mazziotti, President of Frontline Services PDX, a direct, on-the-streets and in the camps service(s) for houseless persons in Portland, I am the founder and immediate past president of Oregon Harbor of Hope and a Commissioner on the Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, but testify representing Frontline.

We support HB 3115, but point to several weakness which might be considered: (1) using law enforcement in this context places and undue burden on police and is not therapeutic for the homeless; (2) most, if not all cities in Oregon face a severe affordable housing problem -- 30,000 unit deficit in Portland alone, without meaningful solutions, which limits the effectiveness of 3115; (3) issuance of citations to move limits any prospect of a lease or a job for the 4,000 unsheltered persons in Portland and thousands more statewide; (4) 52% of all arrests in Portland were of homeless persons, mostly for directing people out of a camp or sidewalk, with no alternative housing; (5) current shelter capacity of 1500 beds in the state's largest city means no reasonable alternative exists; (6) most cities and towns in Oregon have limited funding resources and limited or no social service or housing alternatives -- what are they permitted to do? We support this bill, but see a number of weaknesses when considering the realities of our most-vulnerable on the street, a population which few work for or with, but with medical, mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Thank you. Don Mazziotti