

To the Oregon House Committee On Judiciary:

I am unable to be present for live testimony. I would like to submit my support of HB 3115.

I support the passage of HB 3115, as it protects individuals' right to move freely, rest, sleep, pray and be protected in public space without discrimination. The right to rest is a basic human and civil right for all people and should not be considered a crime. Criminalizing people who are experiencing homelessness is not an effective solution to the complications that arise when people in our communities do not have a place to eat, rest or sleep.

With more and more people in Oregon finding themselves homeless or on the verge of homelessness, our focus should be on expanding affordable housing in the urban areas rather than punishing those who are homeless. 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 homelessness and creates more barriers on the path to stability and prosperity.

Housing needs to be examined as a human right, and a person's inability to feel safe where they live impacts their physical and mental health. HB 3115 can aid in our understanding of improving population health outcomes by providing a sense of safety for those experiencing hardship in our community. Moving forward to support the health and well-being of all in our community also helps us see how people are impacted by the social determinants of health.

HB 2367 would safeguard the dignity of those who already suffer from the burden of homelessness. It is imperative that we establish these freedoms and protections for our homeless community. I implore you to support this critical and life-saving legislation.

Best,

Marla Batista