

Submitter: Ben Roche
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

****Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 3644****

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I stand in **“strong opposition”** to **“House Bill 3644”**, which proposes yet another expansion of the failing **“Housing First”** approach in Oregon. While the intent behind this bill—to address homelessness—is commendable, it continues down a path that has **“proven ineffective”** in truly solving the crisis.

For years, Oregon has poured **“billions of dollars”** into temporary shelter and housing initiatives without addressing the **“root causes”** of chronic homelessness—**“mental illness, drug addiction, and lack of rehabilitation programs”**. The Housing First model **“fails to require treatment or accountability”**, leaving too many individuals trapped in a cycle of dependency rather than putting them on a path to recovery and reintegration into society.

Instead of further **“expanding shelters”**, we must **“divert resources”** to where they will make a real difference:

- ? **“Mental health treatment”** to provide long-term stability.
- ? **“Substance abuse recovery programs”** to break the cycle of addiction.
- ? **“Job training and rehabilitation services”** to restore independence.

Oregonians deserve **“real solutions”**, not more taxpayer-funded programs that merely **“sustain homelessness”** rather than end it. I urge this committee to **“reject HB 3644”** and instead pursue **“true reform”** that prioritizes **“treatment, accountability, and self-sufficiency”** over ineffective shelter expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.