

March 18, 2020

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee:

I would like to bring to your attention an amendment in Section 6 of HB 4001 C engrossed which was introduced by Speaker Kotek in the 2020 session. This amendment would have benefited homeless communities, religious institutions and cities across the state had it passed.

Section 6 of HB 4001 C would have amended current statute and allowed a religious institution to enter into an agreement with their local government to allow parking and/or camping of homeless individuals on their property and parking lot. This would not only help bring our unsheltered community together in one centralized and safe place but also in the City of Coos Bay it would have provided access to bathroom facilities which would aide in handwashing which is recommended as a deterrent in the spread of COVID 19.

We hope you will review the language that was introduced below and add this into your emergency response package to help our homeless communities who are in a high-risk category by virtue of being unsheltered. We are not only facing a tremendous housing crisis on the coast but now it is even more important that we provide assistance in the face of this pandemic.

Local governments and religious institutions can be the states best partners in combatting COVID 19, but they need your help so they may extend much needed help to others.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

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Language introduced from HB 4001 C:

SECTION 6. ORS 203.082 is amended to read:

203.082. (1) Any political subdivision in this state may allow churches, synagogues and similar religious institutions to offer overnight camping space on institution property to homeless [persons]

individuals living in vehicles.

[*(2) In addition to any conditions or limitations imposed by a political subdivision, a religious institution located within the political subdivision and offering camping space described under subsection (1) of this section must:*]

[*(a) Limit camping space at the institution site to three or fewer vehicles at the same time; and*]

(2) A political subdivision may impose reasonable conditions upon offering camping space under this section, including establishing a maximum number of vehicles allowed.

[*(b)*] **(3) A religious institution offering camping space under this section shall also provide campers with access to sanitary facilities, including [but not limited to] toilet, [hand washing] handwashing and trash disposal facilities.**