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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/
URBAN RENEWAL**
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Finance/Recorder
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**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**
Planning
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Building Division
541-917-7553
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FIRE ADMINISTRATION
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FAX 541-917-7716

HUMAN RESOURCES
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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PARKS & RECREATION
541-917-7777
FAX 541-917-7776

PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering
541-917-7676
FAX 541-917-7573

Water/Sewer Billing
541-917-7547
FAX 541-917-7794

Call-A-Ride
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Senate Bill 629 Oregon "Right to Rest"

The Albany City Council and Albany Police Department oppose this bill.

This bill:

- Reverses the last 10 years of Albany's efforts to get our homeless population into housing.
- Enables homeless persons to remain homeless by allowing individuals to sleep anywhere that does not impede or obstruct traffic.
- Specifically prohibits law enforcement personnel from keeping the peace or protecting public spaces by granting homeless persons protected status and exempting them from the regulations by which all others must abide.
- Grants homeless persons the right to use bus shelters, transportation system waiting rooms, parks, natural areas, parking lots, and walking paths as living quarters, uses for which they are not designed and that are inappropriate as living quarters and will cause unnecessary wear at public expense.
- Creates additional costs to local government by requiring additional sanitation facilities, including toilets, washing stations, and trash bins, in places where they are not traditionally needed or placed.
- "Guarantees" jobs; in the public or private sector?
- "Guarantees" that homeless persons are allowed to participate in and benefit from services, programs and activities of state and local government, something that is already available in abundance for those in need.
- "Guarantees" the "housing accommodation of the person's choice," which, for many, could be an otherwise illegal campsite.

The bill creates homelessness or perceived homelessness as *a new protected class*. Currently, law enforcement does not consider one's *status* in enforcing the law. People are sanctioned only when they do *acts* that are unlawful. There is no need to create a new "class" of citizen. Instead, the Legislature should focus on developing and funding programs to help people get into housing and employment. This law would be an unfunded state mandate on local government by forcing cities to surrender public spaces without the funding tools to really make a difference in the lives of citizens who are down on their luck.

Albany is one of many Oregon communities that are committed to ending homelessness. We are focused on the housing-first model – emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, and ongoing support services for those who are economically disadvantaged due to disability. This bill gets in the way of and negates that goal and the hard work of attaining it.