



April 21, 2015

To: Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood

Fr: Elders in Action Commission

Re: SB 629

The Elders in Action Commission is a senior advocacy council that advises the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Multnomah County Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services on issues affecting older adults in Multnomah County. As such, we support affordable, high quality health care, housing, nutrition and transportation services for older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Elders in Action Commission supports the passage of SB 629, 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.

With the vacancy rate in Portland hovering at 3% and more and more people finding themselves homeless or on the verge of homelessness, our focus should be on expanding affordable housing capacity in the urban areas rather than punishing those who are homeless. SB 629 would safeguard the dignity of those who already suffer from the burden of homelessness.

We encourage you to support this important legislation.