

From: Kris McAlister
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#); Rep.JohnLively@state.or.us; sen.leebey@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: HB2402 Testimony
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 5:52:48 PM

To the Honorable Senators and Representatives considering HB2402;

My name is Kris McAlister, and I am a citizen of Springfield, and Oregon born.

As a resident of this state for most of my life, and having had the experience of being both housed, and un-housed at length, within this community, I have seen the great strides that we have taken to create a socially responsible and sustainable transition from the streets to homes.

That said, I have also been privy to the shortcomings and gaps our net has not been able to catch, having experienced much of it, firsthand.

A large swath of our homeless are not in their situation by choice or mistakes-- but rather due to their falling through the cracks in healthcare, or being victims of expanding poverty and dwindling opportunity in strapped communities.

My community has not really been as successful as it was when our mills were running, and a thriving logging industry contributed to our social and economic livelihood, as a dominant force.

As with many things, that time has come and gone, in regards to the numbers we came to depend on.

Our labor force requires ID to get their hard earned incomes, to cash their checks, to establish residency, and to verify that they are who they say they are.

With this known to be a crucial part of establishing and maintaining a meaningful and productive existence in our society, I feel the proposed bill, HB2402, would be a start to removing some of the obstacles that may keep some of our most poverty stricken from realizing their full potential, and create opportunity for their transitioning into a new live; a more stable life. Whether it is be lost due to circumstance, or never obtained due to generational poverty or personal issues, this is a step forward.

By targeting Oregon born residents, to provide birth certificates through nonprofits working with them, and by restricting the fees associated with recovering these documents-- we, as a state, take a strong first step that brings more residents up, while taking responsible actions for Oregonians born, and remaining here, in their home state.

If they have not left in their darkest days, they may just be the productive taxpayer, in future payers.

At the very least, we established a fair, productive, and goal oriented program that sunsets when we run out of homeless having been born in Oregon, and, perhaps, can focus on some of the other obstacles that keep all of our denizens from being able to take part in the continued recovery of our economies, or have yet to find the comforts and securities of a place to call

home of their own.

As a member of a county poverty and homeless board, I ask you to consider this bill, as a means to help ease a burden placed on local nonprofits to try and help in this task, so that they can prepare and support our homeless in other unaddressed manners, in the spirit to expedite the transition from the uncertainty of the streets, to the establishment of security in a home.

I ask, as a former homeless youth, who got a chance by their community and state working together, and made the most of it to change my situation, to please consider aye on HB2402.

Respectfully,

Kris McAlister
Springfield, Oregon

Homeless/Formerly Homeless Member of the Lane County Poverty and Homeless Board