

Sisters of the Road, a wonderful organization serving houseless and marginalized people in Portland, tells me that this bill, House Bill 2959, would further criminalize people for public elimination.

Please vote no! It is extremely difficult for people living on the streets, and many others of us as well, to find a public restroom in our city. To further criminalize ordinary human acts isn't a solution to a terrible human and public health problem. We need more housing, and we need more public restroom facilities to solve a problem on our streets - not criminalization.

In addition, all of us know that such a law would be enforced in an discriminatory way. If a middle class person became ill and had an "accident" downtown, I doubt that they would be cited. A poor, mentally ill, or houseless person would be fined for the same accident.

NO on 2959. We should be building more public toilets, not criminalizing people for having to go.

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