

Dear Representative:

As an Oregon voter, I strongly urge you to reject HB 2959, which would needlessly criminalize the public elimination of human waste as "offensive littering."

If the bill passes, resources would be wasted on prosecuting people for simply not having access to toilets when they need them. People could be arrested and/or fined for vomiting or having diarrhea after coming down with food poisoning or other illnesses in public. The same would be true for those who otherwise have to urgently urinate or defecate away from any restrooms. Such situations happen to many people unexpectedly. They are beyond people's control. The bill would be especially unfair to those who develop incontinence issues or have medical conditions such as HIV, Celiac's Disease, lactose or other food intolerances, Crohn's Disease, and cancer.

Moreover, the bill needlessly targets homeless people for prosecution because they lack adequate access to restroom facilities. It would be far less destructive to invest not in further criminalizing homelessness during an affordable housing crisis, but in installing more restrooms and hygiene facilities for the public to use. We need to focus on helping the homeless survive, recover, and heal as well as we can. Incarceration does not get them off the streets. It is extremely costly and puts up more barriers to them finding housing and reintegrating into society.

Please do the right thing and reject HB 2959 once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Phoebe Oaks

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