

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-chairs Noble and Sanchez, and members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee: At yesterday's hearing on HB 2916, regarding "transitional housing accommodations" (aka urban campgrounds), two committee members asked questions for which there was not time to respond. Chair Keny-Guyer asked the proponents of the bill to respond in writing. Thus, this email response.

1. Vice-chair Noble asked why, in lines 18 to 21 of page 1, the transitional housing accommodations "may" provide services such as access to water, toilet, etc., but "must" provide parking facilities and walkways. The short answer is that this differential treatment is fixed in the Dash-3 amendments; both things are made discretionary. The longer answer is that the original law, ORS 446.265, adopted by the legislature in 1999, made this distinction, for reasons which I think were identified in the legislative history but I have now forgotten. And when we drafted HB 2916 initially, we were trying to make as few changes to the existing statute as possible, so we left it that way, which is why the printed bill retains that distinction. The Dash-3 amendments will remove that distinction.

2. Rep. Helt asked whether the huts, pods, yurts, or tents which HB 2916 would authorize as transitional housing accommodations would provide any protection from Central Oregon's well-known cold winters. I think an honest answer is, "not much, but maybe a little." A typical hut or tent has no or minimal insulation and no heat source or electricity. But huts do provide shelter from the wind and rain (or, in Bend's case, snow) and can be locked or secured so that a homeless person can safely store a sleeping bag there for use at night. And that's better than sleeping in a car or doorway where the car or one's stuff must be moved daily. In addition, typically a transitional housing accommodation has a central common area with water, bathrooms, cooking facilities, meeting space, and heat. Note also that this law is optional with local governments; Bend does not have to allow a

transitional housing accommodation, and if it did, it could consider other steps to address the cold temperatures.

We would welcome any additional questions committee members may have.

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