

TO: House Human Services and Housing Committee  
FROM: Local Resident, Marisa Jacobs & Tom Peter of Cathedral Park and St. Johns  
DATE: April 29, 2019  
RE: Amendment to HB 2916

I am writing in order to request that HB 2916 be amended in order to limit the impact of transitional housing accommodations on nearby vulnerable populations. ORS 446.265(5) limits the number of transitional housing accommodations to 2 parcels per municipality.

In its current form, HB 2916 would eliminate that limitation. I understand that Oregon cities must be allowed to experiment with novel solutions to the homeless crisis. However, the bill does not impose any restrictions on where these transitional housing accommodations may be located. This is of particular concern to me and my neighbors in the Cathedral Park and St Johns neighborhood of Portland. We have recently been informed that the City intends to lease private land that is less than a block from 2 pre-schools and James John Elementary School for one of these transitional housing accommodations.

Many nearby residents and parents of children who attend these schools are deeply upset by these plans. The Portland Joint Office of Homeless Services and the private land owner will rely on a non-profit group without significant experience managing this type of development to address concerns relating to safety, drugs, and crime.

I am writing to request that HB 2916 be amended to prohibit transitional housing accommodations within 1000 feet of a school or senior care/ retirement facilities. In the alternative, I request that the bill be amended to limit the size of any transitional housing accommodation within 1000 feet of a school or senior care/retirement facilities to no more than 10 persons, and to require the municipality to provide 24 hour police patrols or private security.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.