

From: [Jennifer Langston](#)
To: [Exhibits SHOUS](#)
Subject: HB 2916 Letter of Support
Date: Sunday, May 12, 2019 4:52:50 PM

Hello. My name is Jennifer Langston and I'm writing in support of HB 2916.

I am a 3rd generation Portlandian, daughter of a retired Portland Police Officer, and a concerned citizen.

I am ashamed of how our city is dealing with our homeless problem.

Portland has always had a homeless problem, but nothing like what we see today nor what my father ever dealt with as a Veteran Portland Police Officer for 25 years.

We can no longer use the excuse of "Not In My Back Yard!" Because every neighborhood has a homeless community now.

WE have a choice, we can live in filth that comes from a population that has no access to hygiene resources, bathrooms, garbage pick up, water, and storage for

belongings, or

WE can build safe spaces to rest that provide hygiene resources and access to social services.

I hope we see the need for the latter.

We can no longer bulldoze our city to build unaffordable housing displacing citizens only to have the new residents complaining about the view of displaced citizens!

-Creating a safe space for the homeless community allows social services to go directly to those in need that would not otherwise seek help or know where to seek help

-As a person who has utilized the shelter system, I know we need other ways of helping those living on the street. We need more than one tool to help people transition out of homelessness

-Our shelters are over crowded and have long wait lists

-Not everyone is able to be housed right away because of barriers like eviction, criminal record, underemployment, and mental health/substance abuse issues

-All neighborhoods now have homeless community trying to survive

-As a housed person I have a hard time finding a bathroom. If a person experiencing homeless can't find a place to relieve oneself, then we should expect to be walking through human waste

With great concern
Jennifer Langston
State Certified Peer Specialist
Transition Project Volunteer Mentor
Village Coalition Volunt