To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mikaila Smith and I am a member of the Board of Directors for Agape Village, previous employee of Operation Nightwatch, and a concerned Portland citizen. I have seen firsthand how much of a difference a safe and supportive community space can be for our unhoused Portlanders experiencing homelessness. Villages are one of the vital solutions saving lives on a daily basis. Villages continue to grow as community-based, neighborhood-level solutions to the issue of homelessness in our city, and across the state. I personally know many dedicated individuals standing at the ready to create transitional shelter spaces in our community, but we need our legislators support to do so successfully. I absolutely support HB2916 and urge you to pass it out of committee with a recommendation to pass.

Thank you,

Mikaila Smith Portland, OR 97212