

I'm the individual that ran the homeless Basecamp on highway 99 West, when Lane County used it to break up the protests across the street at Lane County courthouse 10/27/2018. In accordance with what police Chief Chris Skinner asked of me, if I was willing to take on the obligation of low barrier entry when we met on May of that year. I began associating with candidates for such a camp. My protest began after Martin v Boise, September 7th and was more one low barrier person inviting the next. Meaning drug users or inviting drug dealers. Bike thieves when riding bike mechanics willing to work on stolen bikes. Alcoholics we're inviting their alcohol buddies. This will not do for solution-oriented shelter. Inspiration is necessary for solutions allowing individuals to mainstream themselves. There is no miracle that would allow anyone to inspire and entirely low barrier-to-entry group for a change of their focus off substances to financial stability let alone success.

I write you today to inform you that in hb4001 I hope you consider much more need for those on social security fixed incomes and, retirement, and those freshly being dislocated from housing that they've been in for decades. It is often the low barrier individuals that receive attention in the current news and headlines. Though I agree that the housing first model is excellent for getting people back on their feet that are facing drug and alcohol addictions. Shelters throughout the state of Oregon must take on an entirely new look. The look needs to accommodate: security of personal property, self and partners, pets and sleeping at all time if day and night.

In my opinion after months of working with low barrier individuals exclusively that low barrier should only be 25% of any given shelter. And that it should be considered an override acceptance of the individual needing such acceptance. This individual must recognize that lawlessness is the one unacceptable behavior above all. Unlike Bob Marbut, I don't see a need for low barrier people to be excommunicated. Everybody needs a place to begin the road back from trauma.

With at least 50% of those I see on the streets over the past 5 years being those foster care and failed by the state at some point, these traumas are of all types, and need much more long-term support and inspiration. Drug and alcohol use tends only to come in after the unresolved trauma, continuing to mask the problems.

The reason that I feel low barrier-to-entry as across-the-board solution will never work, is because I witnessed it firsthand. I realized that the vibration of the community (camp) cannot be brought into standard conformity, when everybody it's still wanted to mask reality through the uses drugs, & alcohol. There are also a larger percentage of lawless individuals connected to the low barrier-to-entry model. It is very important that we keep high in mind many of our seniors and mentally disabled individuals are in greater need. The growing number of people on social security retirement funds in the homeless community is exponential. These individuals are much greater risk and more importantly, willing and able to assimilate back into housing quickly without much aid beyond financial and minor medical.

I urge consideration of any emergency measures for temporary shelter for the homeless include campgrounds throughout the state. Use of campgrounds allow individuals to safely store property and feel a sense of belonging within the camp. The incentives for camp grounds should be offered to those with open property within cities and communities throughout the state close to access for services. If camping bans are put in place for urban areas, then those urban areas should be providing incentives to open campgrounds, bringing them closer to the standard of Martin v Boise. Move on to where?, over here or there at the legal camp area. Though I realize I'm not speaking of bricks and sticks mortar structures as in Martin v Bouse there is a emergent need for safety and security on an immediate basis. Homeless people have become used to functioning within a 7 by 7 tent space. Bringing these spaces into urban communities eliminates much of the concerns and issues that communities currently have. Bring sanitary facilities and trash removal it's largest benefit to all. Stationary folks allow service provided to keep up with clientele. Proven to help social workers achieve success.

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