

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of the Right to Rest Act. The way our cities and counties have dealt with the crisis of homelessness has always been unconscionable, and in the midst of the current pandemic has become absolutely indefensible. As a resident of Eugene I have seen our city government repeatedly sweep encampments, destroying people's belongings and disrupting communities. To live under the threat of sweeps, to worry everyday that the police might come, to constantly start over from scratch, makes it impossible for our unhoused neighbors to stay safe, to take care of themselves much less find a way off the street.

Being without shelter is an emergency, just as being hungry without food or sick without medical care is an emergency. Yet when it comes to housing we not only fail to provide for their basic human needs, we perversely knock down what shelter the unhoused manage to provide for themselves. It is as if the emergency room not only refused care to the sick but took the clothes off their back as they kicked them out the door.

The least we can do—the very least—is to stop spending scarce public resources adding to the burden of going unhoused. If we will do nothing to help, let us at least allow the unhoused to help themselves.

Sincerely,  
Dylan Brady