

My name is David Hazen, I live in Eugene. I am asking you to do everything in your power to pass HB 2367.

I am very disappointed, indeed outraged, at the continuing and demonstrably unconstitutional criminalization of resting and sleeping on public property when there is no designated, safe or humane shelter for human beings, who are legitimate citizens without the means to pay for housing, to occupy.

The policy and actions of regularly removing unsanctioned camps (sweeps) is the equivalent of burning to the ground -- or using a giant bulldozer to demolish -- occupied apartments and homes, simply because some ignorant, privileged person complained about their outward appearance. Not only are such actions NOT an efficient use of resources, they actually contribute to an acceleration of what is a public health crisis.

As state leadership, I strongly urge you to give Oregon cities clear and bold direction to do the following:

- (1) cease the evictions of homeless encampments when there's no where else for people to go;
- (2) collaborate with the many service providers and advocates who work tirelessly to support the unhoused community;
- (3) immediately identify places like parking lots that people can safely shelter in place in their vehicles and tents;
- (4) offer basic sanitation to camps (hand washing stations, bathrooms, and garbage pick-up); and
- (5) reduce police involvement.

Inflicting undue suffering, trauma and desperation on people who are already victimized by the criminal neglect of their government is cruel and unusual punishment, which is prohibited by the U.S. Constitution, as well as the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Housing is a human right, and Oregon needs to affirm that, clearly and boldly, now!

Gratefully,
David Hazen
Emerald Compassionate Action Network
541-520-6621
innercom@peak.org
4349 Shadow Wood Dr.
Eugene, OR 97405