

I live in an area of Eugene where unhoused people have set up several encampments along the sides of roads and in parks. I am dismayed, disturbed, ashamed and sad that these folks have been forcibly removed and/or arrested when THERE IS NOT A COMPASSIONATE AND REASONABLE alternative site for them to lay their heads. If police cannot immediately and safely escort an unhoused individual or family to a shelter that is warm and dry, that meets CDC guidelines for safety, and is located near necessary resources, they have no business disturbing people who have no reasonable alternative to sleeping in public spaces. I hear the comments of comfortable homeowners such as myself judging the "unsightliness" of the encampments, or calling them "disgusting" or "unacceptable," but it is SO easy to be morally superior from the comfort of one's own secure abode, with all its cupboards and closets and garages to store one's things. Is it "acceptable" that our community lacks adequate affordable housing? I commend those who have drafted this bill, a long overdue acknowledgement of reality and of basic human needs.