

Thank you for considering Bill 3115, it means you will be changing tens of thousands of peoples lives who desperately need support. Eugene has the greatest rate of unhoused people per capita in the US. People are living in every public natural space I visit. I have repeatedly called and written to city officials to urge them to follow OHA guidance during this pandemic and allow people to shelter in place and the city has responded with more restrictions on where people cannot be instead of providing them with a place they CAN exist.

Data has shown that the real solution to homelessness is permanent housing however since the federal government stopped funding low income housing in 1996 more and more people cannot afford housing. Until as a society we are able to make housing available to everyone people need a place to exist without being criminalized. Criminalizing people for sleeping and cooking in a way that does not interfere with people getting where they need to go or being threatening needs to be a basic human right. Not only is it important morally, criminalizing homelessness is expensive and it creates barriers to those experiencing this state from getting housing and jobs in the future, entrenching the problem.

It is not logical to make it illegal to exist as someone without a home so please help protect the people that the city of Eugene is repeatedly attacking during this public health crisis.

Thank you. I look forward to my unhoused neighbors at least feeling safer until they can have access to perm at housing.