

Dear Oregon House Committee On Judiciary:

I chose to live in Oregon because I think it is one of the most beautiful states in the United States. I grew to become more familiar with all of Portland and surrounding cities, the beautiful areas, venues, places to go from hiking, skiing, beaches, and the diverse cultures providing the different culinary delectables, which allow for me and others new to Portland to enjoy and experience all the best thing Portland and the surrounding cities and towns have to offer. A charm and beauty only Oregon has.

As I became more involved in the many communities, a different image began to emerge, my heart was heaved and what I was seeing was truly heart breaking. All of the beautiful city's hidden treasures were becoming apparent as cruelty instead of beauty. This broke my heart, to witness this dark part which obviously, the city officials, the media, and shame on you, the Senate, House, Governor, and the mayor, for ignoring the suffering that has caused this houselessness crisis.

Your people are in these community groups. They are valuable people. You surely noticed them as such when they were able to put their full efforts into the growth of their communities, which served you well, but aren't important to you when they fell on hard times. Now your response to there disparities is to sweep them to the side, offering no help or solution to bring them back to a sustainable living environment.

You, the elected officials, must take responsibility for the many issues this population in suffering now, because you did not take the initiative and a proactive stance to intervene before they got to this point.

Start doing the right thing and stop debating, sweeping people hasn't solved the problem of houselessness in the past and surely it will fail at this time as well. The solution to the crime of being houseless is housing people. It's past time for action, act now, act now.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

Sincerely,
Mary Barbee
Pacific Northwest Family Circle
Washington County Civic Leader