

April 11, 2021

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support the Oregon Right to Rest Act and, if you are already opposed, to plead with you to reconsider your position.

Every day in Oregon, people without a home are victims of abuse, scorn, alienation and --too often --physical attacks. Local policies and practices move these neighbors from place to place in an exhausting and purposeless exercise that solves nothing.

*“The detrimental effects of homelessness are manifold, and include psychic trauma, circulatory difficulties, infections that refuse to heal, lice infestations, and hypothermia. In the extreme, exposure to the elements can lead to death.”*

That’s Civil Rights hero Thurgood Marshall, writing as a Justice of the US Supreme Court in 1984. He went on to say:

*“Though numerically significant, the homeless are politically powerless, inasmuch as they lack the financial resources necessary to obtain access to many of the most effective means of persuasion.”* Justice Thurgood Marshall [dissenting]. Clark v. Community for Creative Non-Violence, 468 U.S. 288 (1984).

As Justice Marshall wrote, our neighbors on the street are, for all practical purposes, voiceless and powerless. You have an opportunity today to change that.

In considering HB2367, you have a stark choice: Do you oppose the daily harassment and retraumatization of our sisters and brothers on the street? If so, will you provide this modest tool to help protect them?

Best wishes, and thank you for your service to Oregon.



John Mulvey  
Portland, Oregon

c: Rep. Wlnsvey Campos