

To Whom It May Concern,

As a resident of the downtown Salem area, I see the homeless issue every day. I see the un-contained garbage, undiagnosed & untreated mental health issues, untreated alcoholism & addiction, lack of recourses, & I see the uncertainty & stress that is caused directly by sit/lie bans... I see people. People who have very little. People who are the same as you or I, people who may have lived in a home, but were one paycheck away from homelessness & lost everything. Not having a home over their heads has created a group of people who society now sees as different & less worthy. We push them as far as we can outside of our view, so that we can pretend like they do not exist, rather than lend a helping hand out of the situation. The use of public facilities should not be criminalized when this is their last/only resort.

I am writing to convey my strong support of HB 3115, sponsored by House Speaker Tina Kotek. The bill summary says that HB3115 "Provides that local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness."

Thank you for your time, and allowing me to submit written testimony in support of HB3115.

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