



## John Hummel District Attorney

1164 NW Bond Street • Bend, Oregon 97701  
(541) 388-6520 • Fax: (541) 330-4691  
Grand Jury Fax: (541) 330-4698  
[www.dcta.us](http://www.dcta.us)

March 8, 2021

House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner, Chair  
House Republican Leader Christine Drazan, Vice Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Rules

RE: HB 2366

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of HB 2366.

Twenty years ago I was invited by the organizers of Bend's first homeless shelter to spend a night at the shelter so as to experience what the residents experienced. I accepted, and packed my bag. Because I was a city councilor, the residents were eager to talk with me. I assumed they would focus the conversation on services for people without a house; I was wrong. They asked me about education, employment, transportation, parks, speeding in neighborhoods, public safety, the environment, and many other topics.

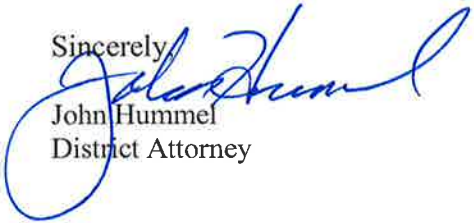
I was embarrassed that it took until that night for me to realize that my constituents in that shelter cared just as much about our community as my constituents in expensive homes on the Westside of Bend. They were invested in our community and had valuable perspectives that were unique to their situations. Many of them were voters (and some were not shy about telling me they did not vote for me!), and when we said our goodbyes in the morning, all of them said they would vote in the future.

Similar to my constituents without homes, my constituents who have been convicted of felony crimes have valuable perspectives that are unique to their circumstances in life. Certainly their lived experiences of being investigated, charged, convicted, and sentenced for crimes offers them insight into the functioning of our criminal justice system. Additionally, like my constituents without houses, people who have been convicted of crimes care about education, the economy, transportation, parks, and all the public policy issues that contribute to healthy and thriving communities.

When we stifle the voices and votes of all Oregonians, we all suffer. By welcoming every Oregonian to our debates on the most pressing issues facing our State, the solutions we arrive at will be better for it. This famous proverb of unknown origin says it best: "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together."

I respectfully request your support of HB 2366. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
John Hummel  
District Attorney