

Submitter: Edie Rogoway
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Human Services
Measure: HB4079

Dear Oregon House Human Services Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on HB 4079. As a 20-year criminal defense attorney who has worked with hundreds of addicts pre and post-recovery, I know first hand that giving loaded debit cards to our homeless population, a population with a very high percentage of addicts, will invite overdoses in record number.

This is not a solution and I have to say, given that for decades, state and city leaders have told us to not give money directly to the homeless but rather support organizations that help them, you would be doing exactly the opposite.

I also believe that fiscally you have an obligation to look at the demographics - a high percentage (upwards of 75%) of our homeless are not from Oregon. They come to Oregon HOMELESS because nationwide, everyone knows that this is a state where you can be left alone living on the street and using drugs.

Do you have any idea what the out-of-state increase will be once word gets out that you can come to Portland and get started with \$750 from the state?

I did not look to see which of you are Democrats and which are Republicans but to the Democrats, I feel compelled to say this: as a lifelong Dem who has never voted Republican in my life, myself and tens of thousands of fellow democrats (millions nationwide) are for the first time in our lives considering voting for Republicans. This is how bad the state of our beloved State is.

All we see is our tax dollars being misspent and the concerns of law-abiding home-owning taxpayers who fund most of the state budget being ignored.

We are the voters. Respectfully, you work for us. Why does it not seem that way?