

Submitter: Harry Sanger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Human Services

Measure: HB4079

Casting aside concerns about additional taxes with rampant inflation on the horizon, this proposed bill introduces a novel concept similar to universal basic income. While Oregonians in the Willamette Valley are exceedingly aware of the homeless dilemma facing our communities, this attempt at a solution appears misguided. Removing pandemic restrictions on existing shelters and facilities to allow them to restore pre-pandemic levels of service is a solution that would cost much less to implement. Designating millions of dollars of ARPA funding towards expanding services is a solution that is already funded. Adding taxes during a time of economic uncertainty to provide regular payments to low income individuals will further inflate already unaffordable rent and housing prices for the working class struggling to avoid becoming unhoused. Please consider the consequences of this legislation beyond the immediate appearance of assistance and do not pursue a proposal that would further burden our communities.