

Submitter: Tina Eilers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB603

I wanted to write to convey my thoughts that OR SB603 does not seem like a wise bill to pass and should not pass. While there may be a few people who are homeless who would use the money to go toward permanent housing, I would guess that there would be a significant number who would not. The people who I see collecting cans and turning around to buy drugs with the money rather than put it toward food and housing would not be using the \$1,000.00/month for housing, they would be using it to feed their addictions.

If money is going to be designated to help the homeless find housing, it needs to be done in a responsible manner where the money goes directly toward the housing and not into the hands of the person it is being used for. This could potentially prevent the money from being used for purposes other than housing. As we have seen from the current out of control drug epidemic, legalizing personal amounts of drug possession did nothing to help the problem and only expanded the problem exponentially. Any money for housing needs to go directly toward housing, and toward requiring treatment for drug addiction and mental health issues so that we do not create another problem like the one that was caused by the legalization of drugs. I can only imagine how much WORSE the drug epidemic would get by giving them cash in hand! It is foolish for those who endorse this bill to think the money would NOT be used for drugs if given directly to people. Put the money toward required treatment instead.

I am also not in favor of this bill because I do not believe in universal basic income. People need to take responsibility and work to provide for their needs. For those who need assistance, it should be done in a manner that equips them to become financially self-sustaining in the long run.