

March 6, 2023

TO: Oregon State Legislature

RE: In Support of Limited Liability for Rural Communities

As Oregon continues to experience a housing and homelessness crisis, recent state investments in shelter and services have yet to reach all communities in the state, and rural areas will continue to be significantly underfunded. Cities and counties located in the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care have historically received less federal and state investment to assist in addressing various services and aspects of care.

Adapt Integrated Health Care, as a rural health care agency, would like to assist in establishing safe resting places and urban campgrounds to provide unhoused community members with basic amenities. However, our served areas do not have the capacity to withstand the legal challenges associated with offering designated safe resting places or campgrounds with basic services.

By limiting liability, SB 847-5 encourages rural communities to designate safe resting places and campgrounds while providing unhoused residents with reliable access to a space of a certain size within which they can erect a tent or park a vehicle and keep their belongings away from hazardous areas, sensitive environmental lands, and high traffic neighborhoods or right of way. Basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and waste management services will also be provided, which will improve access to emergency services.

Adapt Integrated Health Care firmly supports this measure's capacity to improve access to care and resources for small, rural communities throughout Oregon. We strongly urge the legislature to approve SB 847-5 and similar measures to help address this critical need.

Thank you,



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