

Submitter: Ben Roche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

****Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 3644****

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I stand in ****strong opposition**** to ****House Bill 3644****, which proposes yet another expansion of the failing ****Housing First**** approach in Oregon. While the intent behind this bill—to address homelessness—is commendable, it continues down a path that has ****proven ineffective**** in truly solving the crisis.

For years, Oregon has poured ****billions of dollars**** into temporary shelter and housing initiatives without addressing the ****root causes**** of chronic homelessness—****mental illness, drug addiction, and lack of rehabilitation programs****. The Housing First model ****fails to require treatment or accountability****, leaving too many individuals trapped in a cycle of dependency rather than putting them on a path to recovery and reintegration into society.

Instead of further ****expanding shelters****, we must ****divert resources**** to where they will make a real difference:

? ****Mental health treatment**** to provide long-term stability.

? ****Substance abuse recovery programs**** to break the cycle of addiction.

? ****Job training and rehabilitation services**** to restore independence.

Oregonians deserve ****real solutions****, not more taxpayer-funded programs that merely ****sustain homelessness**** rather than end it. I urge this committee to ****reject HB 3644**** and instead pursue ****true reform**** that prioritizes ****treatment, accountability, and self-sufficiency**** over ineffective shelter expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.