

Ensure **all Oregonians** have the right to exist in public space.

RIGHT FOR ALL 2 REST

HB3501

To protect people from discriminatory enforcement of laws that prevent rest, the Right to Rest Act would:

- **Prevent the unlawful seizure and destruction** of unhoused people's possessions.
- Prohibit law enforcement, security personnel, or public employees from **harassing, citing, or arresting** homeless people for exercising the following rights:
 - To occupy and move freely in public spaces
 - To rest (sit, stand, and sleep)
 - To eat and share food
 - To occupy a legally parked vehicle
- **Provide a defense to civil and criminal charges** when the basis for those charges is that the person was merely engaging in the protected activities listed above.
- **Create an exception for public spaces that are closed**, as long as adequate alternate spaces are provided for people to rest without time limitations.

Poor and unhoused people are most often prosecuted for "crimes of survival." As people accrue charges, it becomes virtually impossible for them to access essential resources. **Criminalization directly blocks pathways to stability** and further endangers the physical and mental health of our most vulnerable community members.

Out of 565 street outreach surveys conducted by the Western Regional Advocacy Project members in Oregon, **83%** of respondents were harassed, cited or arrested for **sitting or lying down**.

Why do we need this bill?

The United States has a long, well-documented history of local governments implementing **time, place, and manner restrictions** to target “undesirable populations and remove them from public space.”

The US Interagency Council on Homelessness has stated that successful responses to homelessness must include an **end to criminalization**.

Rest is essential to everyone’s health, well-being, and ability to function. Laws criminalizing rest not only exacerbate and causes physical and mental health issues, they are a **human and civil rights violation**.

Decriminalizing rest must be our first step toward truly supporting our neighbors without housing.

Sponsors

Chief Sponsor Rep. Chaichi
Rep. Pham

Endorsers

ACLU of Oregon, Bernie PDX, Black and Pink PDX, Black Thistle Street Aid, Cascade AIDs Project, Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, Don't Shoot PDX, Douglas County Democratic Central Committee, Housing First Umpqua, Human Rights Watch, Hygiene 4 All, National Coalition for the Homeless, National Homelessness Law Center, National Union of the Homeless, Next Up Action Fund, Oregon Justice Resource Center, Outside the Frame, Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon, Peacekeeper Society, Portland DSA, Portland Harbor Community Coalition, Portland Metro People's Coalition, PDX Saints Love, Portland Tenants United, PRADA, Residents Organizing for Change, Rogue Action Center, Rogue Climate, Rural Organizing Project, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Saint Timothy's Advocacy Team, Showing Up for Racial Justice Springfield-Eugene Chapter, Siskiyou Rising Tide, Siskiyou Street News, Sisters of the Road, Stabbin' Wagon MFR, Street Books, Street Roots Advocacy, Sunrise Movement PDX, Vision Quilt, Voz, WRAP [[full list](#)]



Endorse the
Right to Rest Act!