

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

June 23, 2021

TO: Lori Brocker, Secretary of the Oregon State Senate
CC: James Goulding, Publications Coordinator
RE: Vote Explanation for HB 2100

Dear Chief Clerk Brocker,

I voted "no" on HB 2100 and wish to explain my vote.

Of course, we want our community response agencies to be culturally competent and to serve diverse communities. But I do not believe that HB 2100 is the way forward, as it could adversely affect current services without additional funds being available to all.

To quote from testimony received from Jimmy Jones, the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency: "There are those who will argue that Community Action is incapable of answering the need for racial justice in Oregon, and yet we were born from a racial justice movement. My agency has 425 employees, 44 percent of which are people of color. We serve more than 50,000 Oregonians, more than 60 percent of which are people of color. We are largely an agency of color, serving communities of color.

Certainly, there are problems in the state homeless response system. Grossly inadequate funding, a data system so poor that it would be difficult to design a better system if you were deliberately building one *not* to work, a Byzantine finance and contracting system and too little flexibility generally. But blowing up what works with no plan, no proven alternative, no history of direct service at scale, and no hope for success is not modernization. It's reckless."

I strongly support efforts to promote racial justice and equity. However, I feel that HB 2100 in its current form puts critical infrastructure for serving the growing numbers of homeless individuals in our communities at risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Patterson".

State Senator Deb Patterson, District 10