



## **Senator Deb Patterson**

Senate District 10  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Domicile Unknown Data Demands Action to Address Homelessness**

*Data released by Oregon Health Authority shows toll on human life, need for greater action*

SALEM – According to recently [released data](#) from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), over 200 unhoused Oregonians have died since January 2022. Senator Deb Patterson (D-Salem) authored 2021 legislation to direct OHA to collect data on homelessness to better understand and respond to homelessness.

“With concrete data in hand, we know now more than ever the dire health impacts of housing insecurity,” said Senator Patterson, who is chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care. “All Oregonians should have access to safe housing and affordable, quality health care. We need to recommit and strengthen state and local actions to address Salem’s homelessness crisis.”

Alongside her colleagues, Senator Patterson fought for more than \$9 million for affordable housing, public safety and other resources for Salem, Independence and Monmouth over the course of the 2021 and 2022 Legislative Sessions. These resources included \$7 million for Salem’s navigation center and \$2.5 million for City of Salem shelter services and infrastructure, hygiene services and homeless outreach. Senator Patterson plans to build on this work heading into the 2023 Legislative Session.

“I will be convening conversations heading into the 2023 Session that will focus on supporting programs to reduce homelessness,” said Senator Patterson. “This is a statewide issue. We need to make sure no individual or community is left behind.”

Sybil Hebb, Director of Policy and Legislative Advocacy at the Oregon Law Center, advocated for the collection of this new statewide data to assist in developing a stronger state response to homelessness.

“Implementation of Senate Bill 850 is leading the way in establishing important data about the deadly impact of homelessness for our friends and neighbors across the state,” said Sybil Hebb.

“As we understand more about the consequences of displacement, we can better target our critical prevention and response interventions.”

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