**Please send a support letter on your organization’s letter head**

**Sample Organizational Support Letter – Right to Rest Act of 2017, HB 2215**

**Send by email to:** **coral@wraphome.org****,** **oregonhbr@gmail.com**

**Please send by March 10 on your letterhead – replace all bolded areas with your specific information and then de-bold – erase everything above from here up.**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Date \_\_\_\_\_**

Re: Oregon Right to Rest Act of 2017, HB 2215 - Support

Dear Oregon State Legislators **Piluso, Dembrow, Greenlick, Nosse, Power and Frederick.**

**(Name of Your Organization – or you)** supports HB 2215 aka Oregon Right to Rest which will end the criminalization of rest and accompanying violations of basic human and civil rights for all people, regardless of their housing status. In doing so, HB 2215 would ensure that all people have their right to restful sleep and equal access to public space preserved.

In recent outreach conducted by the Western Regional Advocacy Project with 560 homeless people living in Oregon, Portland and Eugene specifically, 88% of homeless respondents had been harassed, cited or arrested for sleeping. 83% had been harassed, cited or arrested for sitting or lying down, while only 35% of homeless people reported knowing a safe and legal place for them to sleep outside. This increasing penal code aggression towards the houseless seem to be the response to a steady decline in housing stock and funding for affordable housing.

Criminalizing practices which are essential to life functions, not only worsens the condition of people without homes, but also narrows their opportunities to escape homelessness. By acknowledging the failure of municipal laws that criminalize poverty and homelessness we hope that passage of this legislation will improve the focus on more humane and effective responses to homelessness.

The Oregon Right to Rest Act of 2017 will end the practice of citing and imprisoning Oregonians for resting, sharing food or practicing religion in public. **Optional: Include 2 sentences about why your organization – or you – care about this.**

**(Name of Your Organization – or you)** supports HB 2215 aka Oregon Right to Rest and thanks you for supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

**Name of your organization**