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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

I am currently a resident of Portland, and I oppose S2HC. I have lived in Portland for 10 years, and in that time I have yet to see constructive, humane, and workable solutions to Portland's growing homeless crisis. S2HC continues a trend of propositions that do not adequately serve populations in need and further erode the health and safety of impacted communities. Campsites in public spaces are not a humane solution for this crisis. This has been said time and time again, and yet the city council and mayor's office persist in efforts to normalize campsites in public spaces as if it is an issue of human rights. Tents are not adequate shelters. Allowing individuals with mental health issues and addictions to sleep in tents in public spaces is not a victory for human rights. It is a shameful way to handle a population in need. When voters passed Measure 26-210 in 2020 authorizing additional tax revenue to support homeless populations, it was certainly not so that the City Council could normalize inadequate shelters in public spaces that residents already pay taxes to support. Where is this money going? What is the plan to provide real support, assistance, and shelter for this population of people? S2HC falls tragically short of addressing any of these issues. S2HC will significantly erode public health and safety in impacted communities. In Laurelhurst Park, I have personally seen feces and needles near encampments on a regular basis. The playground and field have been surrounded by individuals who are not getting their addiction and mental health needs met. Before we stopped using the playground and fields for health and safety reasons years ago, my children saw people in crisis fighting with each other, yelling at passersby, and aggressively occupying public space that is designed for children to grow and develop. Years ago, my son held up a used syringe that he found in the sports field and asked me what it was for. It is dangerous for children to encounter a population of people that is in crisis, yet Portland City Council seems to believe that allowing this population to establish itself in the very public spaces that are designed for our children is a viable plan. This is shameful and so disappointing. Homeless populations deserve more professionalized, comprehensive, and enduring assistance plans. This is what Measure 26-210 was about. Portland residents deserve safe and unobstructed public walkways, parks, playgrounds, bathrooms. This is why Portlanders support public facilities with tax dollars. S2HC is a betrayal of the public trust for the sake of amateur brainstorming dressed up in the language of human rights and dignity. Every Portlander deserves better than this.

Testimony is presented without formatting.