

Jennifer Coffman

#277804 | March 16, 2021

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

As a psychiatrist who has worked with many homeless people over the course my career, I have deep concerns about 33.296.030.G. Housing First programs work and are economical and humane (<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>). Our money and efforts should go there. Outdoor city "camping" or temporary structures on our sidewalks, underpasses and green spaces have already created numerous health and safety hazards for both homeless and housed members of our community. Having seen first-hand the hazards of living outside in temporary shelters during my work in a healthcare for the homeless program, I am dismayed that this is the direction our city is going. In addition, my children cannot safely walk around the blocks surrounding their school due to exposure to tent camping, garbage, human waste and hypodermic needles. Please don't recreate these unsafe and unsanitary conditions in our neighborhood parks, for those who are homeless and for those of us who live nearby and rely on these parks for recreation and community.

Testimony is presented without formatting.