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

How do we protect our society, while showing compassion for those who are sick and struggling? A huge proportion of our homeless camps are addiction camps. The piles of needles and drug paraphernalia attest to it. Also, in the 70'-80s the Federal Courts emptied the mental hospitals onto the streets of America without a plan for treatment and care. These people need help. Why can't Portland use the funds wasted on cruel "Sweeps" and displacements to instead treat the problem? Providence, Rhode Island has had remarkable success in this area. Check out the MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) program implemented by the department of corrections combined with the CODAC program. <https://codacinc.org/> Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony is presented without formatting.