

# Stephanie Brown

**#289276 | April 1, 2021**

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

I live in a neighborhood that the Hazelwood neighborhood describes as marginalized. Lots of folks below the poverty line. Lots of unhoused neighbors living outside or in RVs or temporary shelter. I want to say that I am thankful for the Laurelwood shelter on SE Foster providing some of our neighbors with some temporary shelter and safety. My daughter went to nearby school Arleta, and she still has friends there. Shelters in neighborhoods are needed. The limits the Hazelwood folks suggest in their proposed amendments would harm neighbors, both housed and unhoused. Our unhoused neighbors are already here in our neighborhoods. Limiting shelters does limit the resources for showers, job searches, trash receptacles, etc. When housing prices are skyrocketing, it is inhumane to try to amend a reasonable fix for our unhoused neighbors. Honestly, if you want to look it from a financial standpoint, a person with a dry place to sleep is less likely to need to self-medicate, and less likely to get frostbite or foot infections because they were outdoors without a good shelter. Just the cost savings to the emergency rooms alone is worth it, those are tax write-offs so our local hospitals can claim non-profit status. Peace, Stephanie Brown, RN

Testimony is presented without formatting.