

From: [John C. Richardson, D.C.](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for the ban
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:49:03 PM

Hello PDX City Council and Mayor Ted Wheeler,

I wholeheartedly support the ban on homeless camping. I am a business owner and head clinician of a clinic that often provides rehabilitative therapy to poor, at risk, and underserved communities. I have arrived at the clinic multiple times to find homeless campers sleeping immediately in front of our door. For months, they would periodically camp out within 20-40 feet of the clinic, urinate or defecate close to our clinic doors, talk to and/or harass patients coming and going, occasionally come into the clinic and disturb work activities, and leave dirty objects when they leave the area.

A neighbor to our Gateway clinic called in a complaint about a homeless camper, who was sleeping in the 5-6' ease-way between the rear of the clinic and a privacy fence. A police officer arrived with the landlord and escorted the man through our clinic and out the front door. Beginning that night, we suffered 3 break-ins over the next 3 weeks, resulting in over \$41,000 in stolen items and damaged or defaced properly. Our neighboring medical clinic friends have had their water pipes and electricity tapped into and stolen, their windows broken, and the receptionist's car stolen by apparent homeless campers.

These stories have been piling up. Yes, it would be great if the substantial amount of city, county, and state resources that we already spend on the homeless actually fixed the problem. But I fear it's only acted as a beacon to drug addicted, mentally ill, and otherwise dangerously desperate individuals who know that penalties aren't steep and the safety net is strong.

Let's make the streets safer to walk, the sidewalks of our beautiful town cleaner, and reduce the incredible burden placed on police, fire, emergency, public works, and small business workers.

John R