



# Portland Housing Bureau

February 5, 2025

Senator Khan Pham  
Chair, Senate Committee of Housing and Development  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301

## **RE: Support for Senate Bill 814**

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

**The Portland Housing Bureau supports SB 814**, as introduced by Governor Tina Kotek for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). SB 814 modifies eligibility criteria for a long-term rental assistance program, implemented by the Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS), for certain people under 25 years of age.

PHB supports this bill for the following key reasons:

- 1. Expanded Eligibility:** SB 814 expands eligibility criteria to include youth at risk of homelessness, those residing in childcare centers, and youth confined in a correctional facility. The eligibility expansion supports efforts to help stabilize vulnerable youth populations.
- 2. Increased Collaboration:** The bill strengthens collaboration by requiring OHCS to consult with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) in designing the rental assistance program. OYA works with youth aged 12 to 24 who are involved in the juvenile justice system, providing treatment, education, and services to aid rehabilitation. Given the growing number of youths experiencing homelessness, particularly justice-involved youth who face significant housing barriers, it is essential to ensure OYA's expertise is part of the program design to address the unique needs of these individuals.

The Portland Housing Bureau strongly encourages support for SB 814 as the bill strengthens eligibility requirements and promotes greater coordination among agencies working to support Oregon's vulnerable youth populations.

Sincerely,

Helmi Hisserich, Director