

Submitter: Malynda Pittman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development  
Measure, Appointment HB5011  
or Topic:

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

My name is Malynda Pittman, and I serve as the Community Manager for Cornerstone Apartments and Courtney Place Veterans Housing. With six years of experience in community management, including four years dedicated to managing affordable housing communities, I am reaching out to advocate for the full funding of the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) request for \$500 million. This funding is essential to continue the development of much-needed affordable housing across Oregon. In my role, I witness firsthand the pressing demand for affordable housing in our state. Each day, I add more residents to our waitlist, and at Cornerstone, that list has now surpassed 600 people. Unfortunately, I regularly have to inform individuals that we have no available units and that the wait for housing is two years or longer.

I meet with people trying to escape domestic violence, individuals with housing vouchers they cannot use because we have no available units, and homeless residents who, despite their desperate need, are simply added to our waitlist. This is not an isolated situation—many affordable housing communities across Oregon face similar challenges, with waitlists extending two years or more.

Additionally, I am unable to accommodate veterans at our 34-unit Veterans Community due to lack of space. In Oregon, 7.7% of veterans live in poverty and require affordable housing, and this issue affects 12.2% of all Oregon residents. These are our neighbors, our fellow Oregonians, who need our support.

I urge you to make funding for OHCS a top priority. As someone who works directly with Oregon's residents daily, I can tell you that the need for affordable housing is urgent. It is heartbreaking to have to turn away homeless families and individuals who are in desperate need of housing.

Please take action to ensure that funding for affordable housing continues to be a priority for Oregon. Our residents deserve better, and they need our support now more than ever.

Sincerely,  
Malynda Pittman  
Community Manager, Cornerstone Apartments & Courtney Place Veterans Housing