



Seed of Faith Ministries International

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TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

RE: Support for HB 3644

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Evelyn McCoy-Harris COO of Seed of Faith Ministries Shelter and Executive Director of Community Recovery and Wellness Living (C.R.A.W.L.). On behalf of our organizations and the local houseless communities we serve daily, we urge your strong support for House Bill 3644, which implements the statewide shelter system.

Seed of Faith Ministries is steeped in Marion County, serving the houseless community for 28 years. Unsheltered homelessness is a humanitarian crisis that endangers personal, public health, and well-being—often compounding trauma experienced by some of our community's most vulnerable members.

This past and current winter have been brutally cold temperatures dropping into the low 20-degree mark. Across two shelters, our organization provides 207 shelter beds. ENTIRE families have been impacted by homelessness and search nightly for housing. This funding is critical to continue ongoing operations.

Through Governor Kotek's emergency response addressing unsheltered homelessness, and partnership with the Legislature to fund increased shelter, rehousing, and prevention services, Oregon is projected to support over 4,800 shelter beds, rehouse 3,300 households, and prevent another 24,000 households from experiencing homelessness by June 30, 2025.

In July of 2024, Governor Kotek and Representative Pam Marsh co-convened a sustainable shelter work group on which I served. We were tasked with developing recommendations for a permanent state shelter program. This workgroup directly engaged practitioners and government partners from rural, urban, and suburban Oregon communities. Members of this task force included highly trusted and revered affordable housing colleagues.

As we unite to provide shelter solutions that promote the long-term stability of our communities' most vulnerable members, every resident and community member of Oregon's cities and towns will benefit.

HB 3644 provides critical stabilization for the statewide shelter system—which has successfully rehoused and stabilized Oregonians. We urge your strong support.

Thank you for your consideration,
Evelyn McCoy-Harris
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