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Public Hearing before the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

February 23rd, 2023

In Support of HB 2001-8

Oregon Housing Needs Analysis Provisions in Sections 1-41

Youth Homelessness Prevention Provisions in Sections 42-45

Modular Housing Provisions in Sections 46-49

Moderate Income Housing Pre-Development Loan Provisions in Sections 50-53

Negotiated Compromise Landlord Tenant Provisions in Sections 54-66

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, please accept this testimony in support of HB 2001-8, a critical part of the bipartisan and bicameral Affordable Housing and Emergency Homelessness Response Package. The bill ensures a focus on youth homelessness prevention, provides innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and contains critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. Thank you for the immense work and leadership in bringing this forward.

The Oregon Law Center (OLC) is a state-wide non-profit law firm whose mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities of Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. Helping families maintain safe, stable housing is a critical part of our work. Housing is about much more than a roof over one's head; it is about opportunity, stability, and health. Without safe and stable housing, it is difficult or impossible for families to hold down a job, keep children in school, access neighborhood amenities, and stay healthy.

HB 2001-8 contains several critical elements designed to reduce unsheltered homelessness and increase housing supply:

- Provides essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction.
- Expands investments in youth homelessness prevention, prioritizing services for school-aged children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families.
- Provides \$20 million in grant/loan funds for the construction of low-cost modular housing in wildfire-affected areas and for low- and moderate-income households.
- Provides \$3 million in seed financing for the construction of affordable workforce rental housing.
- Addresses our long-term housing production challenges by establishing enforceable standards for local jurisdictions to promote the production of abundant, equitable, affordable and diverse housing options.

HB 2001 reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are experiencing due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

We are grateful to legislative leaders for your bi-partisan, bi-cameral and immediate action on this package. These measures will help our communities respond to the crisis of homelessness, improve stability and safety for renters across the state, and take essential steps to resolve our long-standing housing supply challenges.

For the above reasons, we urge your support. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.