



February 24, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 603

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support Senate Bill 603, including the -1 amendment. This bill will test and study a guaranteed income program, supporting households that qualify for but do not receive other forms of housing assistance by providing direct \$1,000 monthly payments for two years.

As we all intuitively understand, higher incomes allow households to meet more of their most important needs, with the flexibility and autonomy to respond to their individual circumstances. Where similar programs have been tested elsewhere, they have proven to be effective in improving the health, stability and well-being of low-income people. This bill will explore the possibilities for a guaranteed income program in Oregon through a pilot program that immediately helps some 1,000 households.

The Portland State University Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative (HRAC) will work closely with DHS to design, recruit for, and administer this demonstration program. HRAC will then study the outcomes and experiences of the program's participants, and issue two reports to the legislature on its findings. HRAC will also present recommendations on how the State of Oregon might structure and administer a long-term guaranteed income program, based on the experience of this demonstration program and a review of findings from similar programs across the nation.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 organizations, including local jurisdictions, tenant advocates, grassroots groups, and housing developers and providers from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have overwhelmingly endorsed SB 603.

We call on you to join us in supporting this innovative measure to directly support households that need and qualify for housing assistance, but are currently left on waiting lists, paying more than they can afford for market-rate homes, or in many cases living in shelters and on our streets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy, Oregon Housing Alliance
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