

Catholic Community Services

We champion the positive development of children and adults, strengthen families and build community.

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February 1, 2021

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 155

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the committee:

I am writing you to draw your attention to SB 155, the non-profit property tax exemption sunset extension bill, as it relates closely to the services provided by Catholic Community Services (CCS). As you are aware, access to high-quality, safe and affordable housing is difficult for many vulnerable populations of Oregonians. CCS serves some of the most vulnerable children, adults and families, who are greatly affected by the current lack of high-quality affordable housing.

CCS currently serves families struggling to protect and nurture their children who receive temporary housing support from our St. Joseph's Transitional Living Community program. This program serves parents and their children for six to nine months in temporary congregate housing, before the family transitions to independent affordable housing. Without the property tax exemption for non-profits who do this type of work, programs like this find it difficult to exist, leaving vulnerable families unable to get the support and help they need.

CCS also serves youth transitioning out of the foster care system to independence. Affordable housing is almost always a challenge for these young adults and the current exemption allows programs to continue offering vital services during a critical time in the lives of these young adults.

Lastly, CCS provides Supported Living Services to adults who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. High-quality and ADA accessible affordable housing is vital for this population of adults, and is currently under resourced locally. The removal of the non-profit property tax exemption would almost certainly limit appropriate housing options for this population, as well as drastically hamper the ability of non-profits to continue providing specialized housing and services.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. I urge your support of SB 155 to maintain affordable housing property tax exemption for non-profit organizations, who provide essential services to some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kyle Deets

Kyle Deets, MA
COO, Catholic Community Services

CCSwv.org

Fostering Hope Initiative
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Group Living, and Children & Family Services



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