

DevNW

DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

March 7, 2023

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 5019 with the Dash 3 Amendments

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work for DevNW, an affordable housing development and counseling agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion and Clackamas Counties.

We support HB 5019 with the -3 amendments, as a critical investment in homelessness prevention across Oregon.

DevNW provides site-based housing, scattered-site housing through rental assistance and supportive services for transitioned-aged youth and young parents in Lane and Clackamas Counties. Demand for our services continually outpaces the availability of resources even as we have drastically increased our programming over the last three years. We know that preventing youth from experiencing homelessness can stem chronic adult homelessness. We wholeheartedly support the additional investment into the Emergency Housing Account to support youth experiencing homelessness.

In addition to youth homelessness, HB 5019-3 takes immediate action to providing \$155 million in funding for homelessness including: preventing homelessness, rehousing people experiencing homelessness, supporting work of federally-recognized Tribes and coordinating emergency management response between OHCS and ODEM.

We applaud the collaborative work from Governor Kotek, legislative leadership and this Subcommittee to lead with this historic investment in supporting homelessness prevention in Oregon. Thank you for all of your work on behalf of our communities and we urge your support of HB 5019 with the -3 amendments.

Sincerely,

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships

devNW.org

