



February 25, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-474
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3644

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

The Oregon Housing Alliance asks you to support House Bill 3644 which will implement a statewide shelter system. Thousands of homeless Oregonians depend on shelters for critical stability and safety. Many of our members operate shelters and manage casework made possible with shelters. It is through their dedication and the dedication of the thousands of other shelter workers across Oregon and the critical homelessness prevention services that we are expected to prevent 24,000 households from experiencing homelessness by June 2025.

HB 3644 will strengthen our existing efforts by developing a regionally coordinated rehousing and shelter system. Which allows the strengths of community-based relationships and care with outcome-based strategies. It will transition us away from a scattered and emergency focused shelter system to one that fosters a shared understanding, a shared language and shared goals.

We are appreciative of the leadership of Governor Tina Kotek and Chair Marsh and for convening a sustainable shelter work group to provide recommendations for a permanent state shelter program. As one of those recommendations, this bill will improve our collective response to homelessness and help people find stable housing.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
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