

Testimony in Support of HB 3145 from AGE+

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Hooper, and I am honored to submit testimony on behalf of AGE+, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that all Oregonians—regardless of age or income—have access to safe, affordable, and age-inclusive housing. I am happy to provide strong support for House Bill 3145, which represents a critical step in addressing Oregon's growing need for innovative, cost-effective housing solutions, including those designed to support older adults.

Oregon is facing a severe housing shortage, particularly for low-income older adults who require accessible, affordable, and sustainable housing. Factory-produced and modular housing presents a promising solution—offering a faster, more efficient, and cost-effective way to meet the needs of our aging population. HB 3145 takes a forward-thinking approach by allowing the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department to use Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program funds for factory-built housing and by requiring a contractor to support the industry's growth.

At AGE+, we work with communities across the state, especially in rural areas, to expand housing opportunities for older adults. We know firsthand that modular and prefabricated housing can be a game-changer in delivering high-quality, accessible housing at a lower cost. By providing technical assistance, training, and a framework for collaboration across developers, architects, and policymakers, HB 3145 ensures that Oregon has the infrastructure to fully realize the benefits of factory-produced housing.

Oregon has an opportunity to be a national leader in using innovative housing solutions to meet the needs of our aging population. HB 3145 provides a crucial investment in the future of housing, and we urge you to support this legislation to ensure that older Oregonians have access to the affordable, accessible homes they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Hooper
President & CEO
AGE+