

## **Testimony for HB 3032**

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Dear Honorable Chair Dexter & Members of the Committee,

I am a supportive member of the home- sharing community. I am a RN Board Certified Case Manager and owner of Adult Living Solutions, LLC. I also currently serve on the Governor's Commission for Senior Services.

I am writing to support House Bill 3032. In working as an Exceptional Needs Case Manager for the 1994 startup of The Oregon Health Plan I had the opportunity to work with many disabled and low-income seniors in Oregon. This gave me a unique picture of the needs of this population. The State of Oregon is in a unique position to support and develop a program that has a triple bottom line to help low-income seniors. This bill can promote new income potential for our seniors on a fixed income, by increasing their income, tax-free and create a program that has significant housing benefits for the elderly living below the poverty line which also can provide for increased emotional & personal support for both parties. We can develop a 21<sup>st</sup> Century approach for housing assistance by developing a financially supportive program that can work with the resource's seniors do have at a small financial impact on the State budget.

In Lane County the occupancy rate is over 98%. The cost of a 1-bedroom apartment averages \$1,500. Single women over the age of 65 are the leading group of the 'unhoused' population. In 2023 an individual on SSI gets \$914. In 2022 in Lane County there were 57 unhoused individuals that died with no address, 393 in Oregon. What is incomprehensible is that we have nonprofit & volunteer groups that have tried to meet the needs of the unhoused. This through Tiny Homes, Transitional Villages & Safe Places. Currently, a Safe Place in Eugene that is open at night for freezing temperatures does not allow folks to sleep, just be warm & safe. It takes 'A Village,' to take care of our at risk seniors. I want to propose it will take, 'A Legislature.' to meet the needs of seniors below the poverty line to have homes. There are 1.5 million spare bedrooms in Oregon. Filling 2% of those would house 30,000 people and create financial security for 30,000 homeowners. Thank you for allowing my testimony of support today. Therefore, I urge the committee to support HB 3032.

