

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3462, which aims to codify the right of all Oregonians to access emergency services and ensures that all emergency housing provided by OEM, OHCS, and ODHS is safe and maintains fair housing standards.

When the wildfires struck in 2020, thousands of people lost their homes and livelihoods. While many Oregonians had access to both state and federal emergency resources, our community members without documentation did not. Luckily, Governor Brown directed our state agencies to provide services to everyone, but our vulnerable communities should not have to wait for the governor's direction. HB 3462 hopes to codify access to immediately-available resources for everyone, regardless of immigration status.

In addition, it also provides that agencies must apply fair and safe housing standards to emergency housing, including any shelter provided during times of crisis. Fair Housing standards are essential for ensuring that all members of our communities, including our workforce and their families, have access to housing during emergencies. To be clear, this is intended to just speak to emergencies, such as a climate crisis like wildfires, that results in displaced individuals.

This bill's forthcoming amendment further clarifies the responsibilities of relevant parties during emergencies, including OEM, OHCS, and ODHS. It also explains what we mean by emergency housing, which will ensure that all emergency housing provided is held to the same high standards.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by OEM, DHS, and OHCS in consulting on this bill and expanding support to people without documentation.

I urge you to support HB 3462 and codify all Oregonians' right to access safe and fair emergency housing during times of crisis.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman