



February 26, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE,  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3644**

Chair Marsh and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

I am writing to express Beaverton's strong support for HB 3644, which establishes a statewide shelter program. This framework is crucial for providing continuity across the state, built on shared outcomes, performance measures, and a focus on transitioning individuals from homelessness to permanent housing. It ensures that all communities have access to the resources needed to address homelessness effectively.

One of the key strengths of this bill is its potential to align future funding with the unique needs of each community. By establishing a regional coordinator to assist communities in identifying their specific needs, HB 3644 empowers local governments and service providers to develop tailored, effective, and sustainable solutions.

The bill also opens the door to innovative programs like safe parking programs and pod villages, which provide flexible and immediate solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness. These initiatives offer safe and dignified living arrangements while individuals transition to permanent housing. Beaverton is proud to operate a safe parking program in coordination with local places of worship, providing an alternative to congregate shelters, but we are concerned about our ability to maintain funding due to the city's current general fund deficit.

Importantly, HB 3644 allocates full funding for the program as it exists today. This funding is essential for maintaining current services and support. However, it is crucial to view this as a minimum baseline. We encourage the legislature to consider this allocation as the foundation upon which the program can grow and expand in response to the evolving needs of our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 3644 and its funding. This bill represents a significant step forward in addressing homelessness in Oregon. By providing a stable framework, future funding potential, and innovative program options, HB 3644 will help ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe and supportive housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Haruyama".

Jenny Haruyama

Beaverton City Manager