



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: March 27, 2025
TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 5011, Relating to Financial Administration of the Housing and Community Services Department

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County writes in strong support of HB 5011, allocating funding to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS). Specifically, Lane County supports the following critical Policy Option Packages as they are essential to maintaining and expanding much needed housing and support services for Oregonians experiencing housing instability:

- 513: This investment is critical to sustaining permanent supportive housing units. Without this funding, these units, which serve the most vulnerable Oregonians, could be at risk, exacerbating the homelessness crisis.
- 516: this funding will enable the expansion of rental assistance and supportive services for permanent supportive housing. This initiative is a proven solution for stabilizing individuals and families with the highest barriers to housing, and increased funding is necessary to meet the growing demand.
- 501: The preservation of shelter beds established through the 2023 Emergency Declaration, Project Turnkey, and navigation centers from the 2021-2023 biennium is imperative. Without this funding, Oregonians who rely on these emergency shelter resources will be left without safe and stable housing options, leading to further increases in unsheltered homelessness.
- 502: Long-term rental assistance programs help keep individuals and families housed, preventing displacement and the cycle of homelessness. Sustained funding ensures that those who have secured housing can maintain stability.
- 504: Service providers play a vital role in keeping at-risk tenants housed through legal assistance, mediation, and advocacy. Continued investment in eviction prevention services will help prevent unnecessary evictions and keep families in their homes.
- 505: financial assistance for households facing eviction is a direct and effective intervention that prevents homelessness before it starts. Ensuring this funding remains available will allow more Oregonians to avoid the trauma and disruption of displacement.

Additionally, we strongly urge the committee to oppose any reductions in funding for the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program, the Elderly Rental Assistance Program, and Emergency Housing Assistance. These programs are critical to supporting local providers and ensuring the vulnerable populations, including seniors and low-income



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renters, receive the assistance they need. These programs complement the ALL IN Executive Order funds and should not be subject to cuts that would weaken Oregon's comprehensive response to housing instability.

Oregon faces an unprecedented housing crisis, and now is the time to reinforce and expand our investments in proven housing support solutions. Lane County urges the passage of HB 5011 and reject any reductions that would undermine the progress we have made in addressing housing insecurity.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER