



EARLY LEARNING  
MULTNOMAH

2/23/2023

Representative Maxine Dexter  
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St NE, H-283  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 2001

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Early Learning Multnomah, please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2001 which is an important element of our state's response to the housing crisis in Oregon. We appreciate that this bill is bipartisan and bicameral and the work that has been done to get it to this point.

As one of the state's early learning hubs we see the impact on young children when families are evicted and parental stress levels skyrocket. Family stress, frequent moves and having no safe and secure place to live are all factors that impact the physical and mental health of children throughout their lives. You have an opportunity to improve lifelong outcomes for our youngest Oregonians.

HB 2001, incorporating the amendments being considered by your committee on February 23, includes several important elements of the response to our statewide housing crisis. The bill will:

- Provide essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction.
- Expand investments in youth homelessness prevention, prioritizing services for school-aged children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families.
- Provide \$20 million in grant/loan funds for the construction of low-cost modular housing in wildfire-affected areas and for low- and moderate-income households.
- Provide \$3 million in seed financing for the construction of affordable workforce rental housing.
- Address our long-term housing production challenges by establishing enforceable standards for local jurisdictions to promote the production of abundant, equitable, affordable and diverse housing options.

We are grateful to legislative leaders for your bipartisan, bicameral, and immediate action on this package. These measures will help our communities respond to the crisis of homelessness, improve stability and safety for renters across the state, and take essential steps to resolve our long-standing housing supply challenges.

Sincerely,

*Molly Day*

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