



January 31, 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 2456

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support of House Bill 2456, which will strengthen the continuum of services for Oregon's unaccompanied homeless youth.

Our coalition of some 100 members includes local jurisdictions, grassroots community groups, and housing developers and providers from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have identified HB 2456 as a top priority for the 2023 legislature.

Addressing the challenge of youth homelessness is both a moral imperative to provide stability, care, and wellbeing for young people today, and a forward-thinking measure that will have benefits for our entire housing system for decades to come. Preventing young people from becoming homeless in the first place, and quickly getting youth into supportive, stable housing if and when they become homeless, is proven to help prevent a lifelong cycle of chronic homelessness.

Shamefully, Oregon has among the nation's highest rates of youth homelessness. This bill provides tools to change that reality, and allows us to take an important step forward in addressing our state's homelessness crisis for the long term.

We urge you to join the Oregon Housing Alliance in prioritizing passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org