



March 30, 2021

House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2007

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

HB 2007 Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership is a priority issue on the 2021 Children's Agenda. Oregon's communities of color do not have equitable access to homeownership due to historical and current housing policy practices, disparate access to credit, generational poverty, and racial biases.

The Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership (JARDHO) was a critical first step by the Legislature to understand and elevate the inequities in our current systems, and to lay out strategies to begin to address the racial disparities we see in homeownership rates in Oregon.

Homeownership rates for Oregon from the 2014-19 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates show that rates are lower for communities of color in Oregon than for whites:

- White: 66%
- Asian: 61%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 46%
- Hispanic/Latino: 43%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 35%
- Black: 34%

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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Homeownership is a primary driver for individuals and families to build generational wealth. Perpetuating inequities in access to homeownership further widens the wealth gap between racial groups.

HB 2007 would authorize Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to provide financial assistance to organizations to increase homeownership among communities of color and provide down payment assistance through the Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP). This expansion of HOAP funding will be administered to Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and underserved communities of color across Oregon.

In addition to effective funding, HB 2007 would require implicit bias training for mortgage loan originators and real estate licensures. Implementing implicit bias trainings will ensure that homeownership professionals understand their positionality within Oregon housing and development and focus on creating an equitable future for all homeowners.

HB 2007 would extend the sunset date of JARDHO until December 2022. This extension will allow JARDHO to continue to investigate and make recommendations to increase homeownership rates among people of color in Oregon.

HB 2007 has the potential to narrow the inequities within Oregon housing and give families of color the opportunity and resources to build generational wealth. HB 2007 will address equitable advancements within the Oregon legislature and continue to analyze racial disparities in homeownership across the state. We strongly urge you to join us in supporting HB 2007.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

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View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda