



**U-TURN
FOR CHRIST**

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13*

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,
I am writing to express my support for House Bill 3644, which seeks to establish a statewide shelter program aimed at reducing unsheltered homelessness in Oregon. As a representative of U-Turn for Christ Oregon and a key partner in the Built for Zero initiative in Grants Pass, I have seen firsthand the urgent need for targeted, data-driven solutions to homelessness.

In Grants Pass, we are actively working to establish the Stepping Stone Stabilization Center, a facility designed to provide structured shelter, essential services, and pathways to long-term housing stability. This initiative has gained momentum through collaboration with city officials, county leadership, law enforcement, nonprofits, and healthcare providers. By utilizing a Built for Zero framework, an evidence-based approach that has successfully reduced homelessness in other communities, we are ensuring that our efforts are both strategic and measurable.

Our plan includes:

- A stabilization center offering immediate shelter, medical care, mental health support, and case management.
- A coordinated entry system to transition individuals from homelessness into permanent housing.
- Collaboration with local stakeholders to address root causes and ensure accountability.

HB 3644 presents a significant opportunity to align state funding with local efforts like ours in Grants Pass. I urge the committee to ensure that a portion of the allocated funds supports stabilization centers that integrate Built for Zero strategies. By prioritizing data-driven, coordinated responses, we can move beyond temporary shelter and create real pathways out of homelessness.

I appreciate your leadership in addressing this crisis and urge you to consider the work already underway in Grants Pass as a model for how these funds can be effectively utilized. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our efforts in more detail and explore how we can collaborate to implement HB 3644 in a way that maximizes impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeromy Ford
U-Turn for Christ Oregon