



March 29, 2021

To Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Caitlyn Kennedy Young. I am asking for your support of HB5011, the budget bill, to ensure that Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has their recommended budget for the 21-23 biennium. I am asking for this support because I know that with a housing crisis that pre-dated COVID, we still need innovative solutions and the funding to act on those solutions to keep Oregonians safe and secure in housing.

I oversee the tenant education program, Rent Well, which is owned by Transition Projects. This program teaches tenants about their rights and responsibilities as renters and covers all of Oregon. The lessons learned in this essential program are pivotal to individuals being able to find and maintain housing. What is even more crucial to housing success and stability is having the rental assistance funds to provide that ongoing support.

As you know, the State of Oregon has been hit hard by numerous crises in 2020. COVID, economic losses, wildfires, and more. However, before 2020, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis. Too many of our community members were experiencing housing instability then. In times of crisis, we need to continue providing the highest level of support and making sure that we fund the agencies doing that work. Like the work that OHCS and its community partners are doing.

I encourage your support to pass HB5011. Passage of this bill ensures that agencies who are doing the hard work, such as my own, can continue to provide access to housing for those in need through the funding we receive from OHCS. Thank you so much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlyn Kennedy Young".

Caitlyn Kennedy Young | Rent Well Program Administrator
Transition Projects
from homelessness to housing