



OUR JUST FUTURE

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ourjustfuture.org



February 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, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Our Just Future, please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2001. This bill addresses our state's urgent housing needs and long-term housing supply challenges with immediate action on several fronts.

At Our Just Future we counter the forces that keep people and communities in poverty by building relationships and assets that create opportunity – today and for future generations. We operate a broad range of anti-poverty programs, from emergency shelter to permanent affordable housing, after-school mentoring to career support – and a lot more in between. Through this work we envision vibrant, healthy neighborhoods where all people can share in the security, hopes and advantages of a thriving, supportive community.

In this moment, we look to our leadership to create a future in which every person has all of their basic needs met, including housing. As evidenced by the many housing policies that emerged during the global pandemic, Oregonians are making real, meaningful change at a policy level. This is no time to stop.

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.



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- 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.

HB 2001 reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are experiencing due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability. Especially, in communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, health care, opportunity and wealth are paying an unfair price for Oregon's unfair and rushed eviction laws. We believe housing is the pathway to equity and justice, and this bill can help us achieve that.

We are grateful to legislative leaders for your bi-partisan, bi-cameral 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,

Andy Miller, Executive Director

Our Just Future