



February 23, 2023

Re: Support for HB 2001

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 2001. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color. We are an alliance of culturally-specific organizations dedicated to collective action for racial justice. We urge your support of House Bill 2001 to address the housing crisis that is harming communities of color throughout the state.

HB 2001 will help address Oregon's urgent housing needs and the long term shortage of homes by taking immediate action on several key issues driving this crisis. With the amendments being considered by the committee on February 23, this legislation will include several key strategies to address homelessness, including essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction; an investment of \$3 million in seed financing for the construction of affordable workforce rental housing; and the establishment of enforceable standards for local jurisdictions to promote the production of abundant, equitable, affordable, and diverse housing options to help address our long term housing supply issues.

Right now, Oregon's eviction statutes are designed for displacement—not stability. The improvements in this legislation are particularly important for Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Pacific Islander Oregonians, who are all more likely to rent their homes as a result of income and wealth disparities and other systemic inequities. Promoting stability in the state's housing laws will increase the wellbeing of communities of color in Oregon.

This legislation demonstrates legislative leadership's shared commitment to preventing homelessness and increasing housing supply in our state. We appreciate that this bill is bipartisan and bicameral, and that the legislature will take immediate action.

Thank you for acting with urgency to address homelessness and housing instability. 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,

Jenny Lee, Deputy Director

Coalition of Communities of Color