

February 28, 2023

TO: Chair Dexter, members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: Support HB 2001-11 and HB 5019

Dear Chair Dexter,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to you today to urge your support for HB 2001-11 and the \$27.4M Balance of State Continuum of Care allocation in HB 5019 which extend the provisions and resources for Oregon's homelessness state of emergency to cover the whole state.

We need to invest in housing and services all across the state, so that each community can meet the needs of our unhoused neighbors in the place where they have family and other support networks. Uneven provision of services to vulnerable individuals and families forces them to travel to find means to address basic needs.

Counties are a valuable and under-utilized resource for regional coordinated homelessness response. Counties across Oregon have been instrumental in the success of Project Turnkey, and in the first few months of the HB 4123 coordinated homeless response pilot projects, are already developing new shelter capacity with local partners. Every county and its cities should have the opportunity to build locally tailored capacity to address homelessness and housing insecurity. The bottom-up, city-county approach builds lasting capacity to address homelessness on an ongoing basis, long after a state of emergency.

AOC urges your support for HB 2001-11 and the \$27.4M Balance of State Continuum of Care allocation in HB 5019, and we thank you for your partnership to solve the crisis of homelessness across all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties