



February 11, 2021

To: House Committee on Housing

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Vilhauer, and I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. I am writing to share our organization's strong support for HB 2842.

In 2018, Oregon Habitat for Humanity affiliates reached an important milestone: together we have made the dream of stable and affordable homeownership a reality for 2,000 Oregon households. Habitat for Humanity has long focused on providing low-income families with the opportunity to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by owning a key asset: their home. In addition, Habitat for Humanity provides low-income homeowners with critical home improvements from local offices based in 25 Oregon communities.

Our critical home repair programs took root in Oregon nine years ago. Last biennium, we provided 281 affordable home repairs across the state, making it possible for homeowners of modest means to live in health and safety. For Habitat for Humanity, this is just the beginning. Too many of our elders are still in need of a ramp to provide safe access to and from their home. Too many families are still anxiously considering how to preserve the health and integrity of their house as the roof begins to fail.

For every organization who provides these critical home improvements, the local community needs we encounter far outweigh the resources available for healthy home repairs. For every home repair that Habitat for Humanity provides, at least another nine households applied for essential home repairs. We simply lack the resources to meet the need in rural, suburban and urban Oregon communities.

With your help, Habitat for Humanity and our many community partners will mobilize the volunteers, building materials and local subcontractor services needed to help more Oregon families lead worry-free, healthy and productive lives.

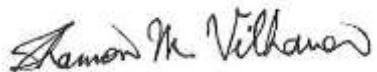
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

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We believe that our communities become stronger as we unite to meet our friends and neighbors' basic need for a stable, healthy and affordable place to call home. Through affordable home repairs, our collective efforts improve the vibrancy of entire neighborhoods and preserve housing stock for generations to come.

Once again, we strongly encourage you to support HB 2842. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and the 25 Habitat for Humanity affiliates building and repairing homes across the state, thank you for your service and your strong consideration of this bill.

In gratitude,



Shannon M. Vilhauer, Executive Director

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