



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 7, 2023

To: [**Senator Aaron Woods**](#), Co-Chair, [**Representative David Gomberg**](#), Co-Chair,
[**Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development**](#)

Re: [**HB 5019**](#) – Emergency response to rehouse and reduce unsheltered homelessness – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that persons who are unable to work or whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.

The League has been working on this serious issue for decades. We strongly support HB 5019 to appropriate \$200 million to assist unsheltered Oregonians, build and preserve needed affordable housing, prevent evictions, and increase homeownership statewide.

This funding includes \$85.2 million to support local plans to address homelessness in emergency areas through expanding shelter capacity and rapid rehousing initiatives. A targeted \$33.6 million for eviction prevention is anticipated to avoid homelessness for 8,750 households statewide. \$26.1 million will address homelessness through increased shelter capacity, rapid rehousing initiatives, and sanitation services in communities within the Balance of State Continuum of Care. \$200,000 will support the development and design of a statewide, long-term rent assistance program for individuals who are rehoused with state investments.

These critically needed resources will provide support to unhoused Oregonians who face a severe shortage of affordable housing and shelter space, and potentially offer them a way out of a life of poverty.

We urge your support for HB 5019.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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