



Letter in Support, HB 4160

February 10, 2012

MEASURE: 9 HB 4160
EXHIBIT: 9
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SUBMITTED BY: Alison McIntosh

February 10, 2012

Members of House Human Services Committee
900 Court Street, NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Gilliam, Co-Chair Tomei, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Housing Alliance in support of funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. In particular, we are writing to support HB 4160, which would continue the post-TANF program through June 30, 2013. Currently, it's slated to be cut on June 30, 2012.

Here in Oregon we have put in place basic safety net programs that are designed to provide the essentials and to protect families with children. Families are struggling to survive even with TANF support – facing choices like paying rent or buying food and medicine. We need to maintain basic safety net programs such as TANF. They aren't a luxury, but a life-raft for kids and families. TANF provides minimal assistance each month to meet expenses such as housing, food, and other necessities.

Post-TANF was designed to help families transition off TANF successfully, while also helping Oregon to meet our Federal employment participation requirements. Families receive a small stipend of \$50 a month to help meet additional expenses which arise as a result of their new employment—day care, work clothes or uniform, transportation—and help them maintain their new job. It is an important support for these families.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations from across the state that has come together out of a concern for those in our communities that do not have a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home, or access to a community that provides a range of opportunities and services. We know that we all benefit when our neighbors have full access to opportunity.

The Housing Alliance believes that everyone needs a place to call home. We also know that too many families and children in Oregon are struggling to survive. Families need help from us, their neighbors. We need to provide help so they can take steps towards a more stable life. We can do this by making choices to protect our basic safety net programs such as TANF and Post-TANF, which help to ensure families have some basic necessities such as food and a roof over their head, and the support to get back on their feet.

We urge you to support HB 4160. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alison McIntosh
On Behalf of the Housing Alliance

Member Organizations

1000 Friends
AFSCME Local #3135
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Ashland
City of Beaverton
City of Corvallis
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas Community Land Trust
Clackamas County
Clackamas Housing Action Network
Coalition for a Livable Future
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team, Inc.
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Homeless Families Coalition
Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.
Housing Development Center
Impact Northwest
Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
JOIN
Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Metro
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Oregon Action
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
Proud Ground
REACH CDC
Rose CDC
St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County
Shelter Care
Sisters Of The Road
Street Roots
Umpqua CDC
Washington County
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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