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Oregon House Human Services &  
Housing Committee  
Attn: Debbie Nealy  
debbie.nealy@state.or.us

Re: House Bill 2712

Dear Committee Members;

I am writing to support House Bill 2712. It makes good sense for Oregon.

The General Assistance program brings federal money into the state and puts it in the hands of Oregonians.

As a lawyer for the indigent, I meet many people who are unable to work. They clearly are eligible for disability payments from the federal government. But often I am told that a past application for benefits lapsed when the person could not afford to maintain housing.

It is in the state's best interest to provide the support these people need during the interim period while waiting for benefits. General Assistance helps them secure benefits that are forthcoming. By not providing General Assistance, we give up federal dollars that protect Oregonians.

Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jesse Lohrke