



Member Organizations

211 Info
AFSCME Local #3135
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
City of Portland
City of Tigard
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
Enterprise Community Partners
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Hacienda CDC
Homeless Families Coalition
Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Impact Northwest
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
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon Action
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
Rose CDC
St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County
Shelter Care
Sisters Of The Road
Street Roots
Transition Projects, Inc.
Washington County
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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HB 2712: Creating an Advisory Committee to study temporary assistance

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

Dear Chair Tomei, Vice-Chair Gomberg, Vice-Chair Olson, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you in support of HB 2712, which proposes the creation of a Task Force regarding temporary assistance for people with disabilities.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations serving all parts of Oregon. We are concerned about the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Oregon residents, particularly residents who have limited incomes. We come together as a coalition because we know the importance of a stable home in affording Oregonians the ability to maximize their potential and build better futures for themselves and their loved ones.

The Housing Alliance supports HB 2712 because we believe in protecting our neighbors with disabilities. Small amounts of temporary assistance while people wait for federal disability benefits can make the difference between having a place to call home and sleeping in a shelter or on the streets.

Too many of our neighbors with disabilities wait for several years to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. During that time, they have no incomes and often experience housing instability or homelessness.

We can avoid this by implementing the effective solution of temporary assistance for adults with disabilities. HB 2712 will establish an Advisory Committee to study how temporary assistance works, its costs, and how it would be implemented. The Committee would then report its findings to the 2014 Legislature.

States who provide temporary assistance are often able to recover their costs from the federal government once individuals receive federal disability benefits.

The Housing Alliance is concerned about members of our community who are unable to work due to a disability, and as a result are facing homelessness. We urge you to pass HB 2712 to study the issue of providing temporary assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, and for your work on behalf of Oregon communities.

Alison McIntosh
On Behalf of the Housing Alliance