



Community And Shelter Assistance Corp.

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To: Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee

From: Peter Hainley, Executive Director of CASA of Oregon

CASA has worked closely with Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON) to ensure that Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has a strong governance structure. As a member of Oregon ON, CASA supported the development of HB 2376 which was sponsored by members of this committee.

Oregon ON has received assurance from OHCS that they will incorporate many elements of our original bill into HB 2442 including:

- giving the new governing body a role in fiduciary oversight that extends to an entrepreneurial business model which includes a substantive role in developing and monitoring the budget;
- assuring the selection of members with expertise commensurate with the program and services offered by the department;
- ensuring the council has a role in oversight of the state's housing plan.

The governing body needs the authority to set housing policy. There needs to be clear linkage with other state agencies and systems. The current housing council lacks the authority to set policy and therefore is unable to provide the oversight necessary to ensure a high functioning agency.

A strong governing body is crucial to the success of any organization, public or private. With proper membership, this body will ensure the agency is fulfilling its role as spelled out in statute. Passage of this bill will give this body the appropriate fiduciary oversight powers and duties, including those that are currently in statute but are not happening in practice.

We look forward to working with OHCS as they continue down the road of transformation. We applaud Margaret and her staff for all their hard work to ensure that Oregonians throughout the state have access to safe, decent and affordable housing and the provision of services that are vital to healthy communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this important bill (including the amendments supported by Oregon ON).



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY