



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

[www.OregonHousingAlliance.org](http://www.OregonHousingAlliance.org)

**Members:**

- 1000 Friends of Oregon
- 211info
- AFSCME Local 3135
- Alliance of Family & Housing Success
- Bienestar
- CASA of Oregon
- Cascade Management Inc.
- Central City Concern
- Chrisman Development Inc.
- City of Portland
- Clackamas County
- 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
- Fair Housing Council of Oregon
- Farmworker Housing Development Corporation
- Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
- Hacienda CDC
- Housing Advocates Group of Washington County
- Housing Development Center
- Human Solutions
- Impact Northwest
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
- Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center
- League of Women Voters of Oregon
- Lincoln County
- Metro
- NAYA Family Center
- Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO)
- Neighborhood Partnerships
- NeighborWorks Umpqua
- Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
- Northwest Housing Alternatives
- Northwest Pilot Project
- Open Door Counseling Center
- 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
- Sponsors, Inc.
- St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
- ShelterCare
- Sisters of the Road
- Street Roots
- Transition Projects
- Washington County
- Welcome Home Coalition
- Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

# SB 629: Ensure Access to Public Space

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee  
March 12, 2015  
SB 629

Chair Gelser and members of the Committee,

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than fifty organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices from residents to local jurisdictions to non-profit housing developers and organizations working to meet basic needs.

We ask your support for Senate Bill 629, which will help ensure that all people, regardless of their housing status, can safely use public spaces for basic needs like resting and eating. Criminalizing people who are experiencing homelessness is not an effective solution to the complications that arise when people in our communities do not have a place to eat or sleep at night.

We know that when all our neighbors have the opportunity to prosper and build foundations for economic stability, our communities and state thrive. We also know that when we narrow opportunities, our community members and our state suffers. Criminalizing lack of housing when we have not done enough as a state to ensure everyone has a stable place to call home narrows opportunities to escape homelessness and creates more barriers on the path to stability and prosperity.

I encourage this committee and the legislature to continue to find solutions to ensure everyone has a safe, affordable place to return to at night. In the meantime, we should ensure that we don't create more barriers for the many members of our community who do not have a place to call home.

I urge your prompt consideration and support of this proposal and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Omar Carrillo Tinajero  
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance