



Proven Partners • Thriving Communities • Lasting Value

April 28, 2015

Dear Chair Gelser and members of the Human Services and Early Childhood Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network to offer our support for HB 2219, which establishes a workgroup that will study how to create a consolidated application process for Oregonians applying for human and social services.

Oregon ON is a statewide association of affordable housing and community development organizations that provide housing and economic opportunity for working families, people with disabilities, seniors and others struggling to meet their needs in communities throughout Oregon. Our members include nonprofit housing providers across the spectrum from homelessness to homeownership, as well as many housing authorities and community action agencies.

Working on the front lines to support vulnerable Oregonians and help them access the services and supports they need to be successful, our members and the folks they help, contend on a daily basis with the complexities and obstacles of Oregon's complicated application processes. Our dedicated staff strive to help our residents and clients, but the existing system is extremely difficult to navigate – and, it adds costs for nonprofit community organizations who operate on low margins.

While we know all too well that many Federal rules and restrictions are outside our control, we believe that Oregon can do a better job of streamlining and simplifying our eligibility processes. That's why we support HB 2219, which will establish a workgroup to tackle this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this bill, and as always for all that you do to support the success of low-income Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Miller'.

John Miller
Executive Director