



May 19, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

Fr: Elders in Action Commission

Re: HB 2564

The Elders in Action Commission is a senior advocacy council that advises the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Multnomah County Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services on issues affecting older adults in Multnomah County. As such, we support affordable, high quality health care, housing, nutrition and transportation services for older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Elders in Action Commission enthusiastically supports the passage of HB 2564, lifting the ban on inclusionary housing. Lifting this ban will provide local jurisdictions with access to an additional tool to increase affordable housing.

The Portland metro region's senior population (65 +) is expected to more than double within the next 15 years. As that number grows, so will the number of low income seniors. Increasingly, Elders in Action staff are receiving calls from older adults in their 70s and 80s who are in jeopardy of being evicted or are already homeless. When they call us for assistance, our housing searches often result in few available rentals that the individuals can afford that are available soon enough to avoid a gap in housing.

We need more affordable housing. We need it for families and for seniors alike.

Please lift the ban on Inclusionary Housing. We need all the tools available to meet this growing housing crisis. We thank you for this opportunity to testify today.