



**HOUSING
ALLIANCE**

General Assistance Creates Housing Stability

**House Committee on Human Services and Housing
February 3, 2016
House Bill 4042 Relating to General Assistance**

February 2, 2016

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee,

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than seventy 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 in every corner of our state.

We ask your support for the General Assistance program in House Bill 4042.

Oregonians should have a level of financial security that allows them to afford a home and meet their basic needs. Our state should work to develop policies and programs that enable residents to achieve this fundamental stability and overcome barriers to housing. This is particularly true for the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with serious disabilities who are experiencing homelessness. Oregon's General Assistance program was a critical tool that served these needs by helping applicants for Social Security benefits bridge the gap between the time of their application and receipt of benefits. With the defunding of the General Assistance program in 2005, these residents have been left with little support to afford housing and other basic necessities. With HB 4042, we have an opportunity today to begin rebuilding this program and helping end homelessness.

General Assistance has a track record of success. It is a highly cost-efficient tool to help our neighbors have a safe, stable home, and its restoration is long overdue. On behalf of the Housing Alliance, I urge your prompt consideration and support of



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this proposal, which promises to benefit Oregonians facing serious barriers to housing.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Byrd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Janet Byrd
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance**



HOUSING ALLIANCE

Housing Alliance Members

www.OregonHousingAlliance.org

1000 Friends of Oregon

211info

A Home for Everyone Multnomah County

Alliance of Family & Housing Success

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Bienestar

Bradley Angle

CASA of Oregon

Central City Concern

City of Eugene.

City of Portland

Clackamas County

Coalition of Communities of Color

Coalition of Community Health Clinics

Common Ground

Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Community Alliance of Tenants

Community Energy Project

Community Housing Fund

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Cornerstone Community Housing

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Enterprise Community Partners

Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Farmworker Housing Development
Corporation

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

Hacienda CDC

Coalition of Housing Advocates

Housing Development Center

Housing Works

Human Solutions

Impact Northwest

Immigrant & Refugee Community

Organization

JOIN

Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center

League of Women Voters of Oregon

Lincoln County

Metro

Momentum Alliance

NAYA Family Center

Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.

Neighborhood Partnerships

NeighborImpact

NeighborWorks Umpqua

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

Northwest Housing Alternatives

Northwest Pilot Project

Open Door Counseling Center

Oregon AFSCME Local 3135

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness

Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Housing Authorities

Oregon Law Center

Oregon Opportunity Network

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives

Proud Ground

Raphael House

REACH CDC

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.

ShelterCare

Sisters of the Road

Sponsors, Inc.

Street Roots

Transition Projects

Urban League of Portland

Washington County

Welcome Home Coalition

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services