## **Advocacy Coalition**

of Seniors and People with Disabilities Avenue

5517 7<sup>th</sup>

Salem, OR 97306

February 3, 2016

Draft

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair House Human Services and Housing Committee 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Re-establishing the General Assistance Program – HB 4042

The Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities hereby wishes to add its support for reactivating the General Assistance Program which was defunded in 2005. The Program provides interim assistance to low income persons with significant disabilities and who are homeless. Such assistance includes help in finding housing, personal incidental funds, and assisting in applying for and securing federal Social Security Administration disability benefits.

The population to be served has been well-described as the poorest of the poor and those most in need of assistance. We hope that your committee will hold a work session on HB 4042 and send the bill on to the Ways and Means with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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