



Dear Co-chairs Read and Girod and members of the committee,

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the \$10 million increase for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) in SB 5701.

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents employees who work in housing authorities, human services, education and child care and other public services around the state.

Many of our members who work in housing, human services, public safety and early education can tell stories of the increased numbers of people having to make the choice between paying for rent or buying necessities such as food, medication or paying for utilities. They can also tell stories of clients, families, experiencing homelessness and the ripple effect into other areas of their lives that it has. While some know the crisis through the work they do, other members have or are experiencing homelessness or the lack of stable housing first hand.

EHA and SHAP can make the difference in getting or keeping people in housing by covering emergency rent assistance, providing funds for rent and security deposits, or helping with application fees. It can also be used to provide emergency shelter. This security is much more than a roof over their heads it is stability that reaches to all areas of a person's life.

Please support keeping individuals and families in stable housing and providing emergency shelter by increasing the funds for EHA and SHAP by \$10 million for the remaining months of the 2015-17 budget.