



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

Ted Wheeler, Mayor  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

March 20, 2017

Senator Johnson, Co-Chair  
Representative Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court Street, NE, HR F  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 5012

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee

We write in support of increased funding for EHA and SHAP within the Oregon Housing and Community Services budget. Families and individuals across Oregon are at increased risk of displacement and experiencing homelessness due to an unprecedented housing affordability crisis. Increased state support for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) will grow the critical safety nets needed to assist Oregonians.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services, a collaborative effort of the City of Portland and Multnomah County, relies on EHA and SHAP funding to prevent homelessness through short-term rent assistance and provide emergency shelter services in our community. Women's shelters, emergency shelters for survivors of domestic violence, family shelters, veteran's rent assistance, and programs housing teen parents serve Portlanders every day through EHA and SHAP. The Joint Office has increased shelter capacity and stabilized families in their homes to prevent homelessness by aligning local funds with EHA and SHAP under the Home for Everyone collaborative strategy. However, the investment in these programs and services must be sustained to meet demand.

The City of Portland urges your support for investments in these critical services to improve housing stability for vulnerable Oregon families.

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