



March 20, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda Saul and I am a Senior Program Director at Enterprise Community Partners, a national organization working to create and advocate for affordable homes in thriving communities linked to good schools, jobs, transit and health care. I am writing today on behalf of Enterprise to encourage your inclusion of the Emergency Housing Account and the State Homeless Assistance Program in the budget.

At Enterprise, we value the role that the Emergency Housing Account and the State Homeless Assistance Programs play in confronting the challenges of housing affordability in a booming region. We've seen how successful EHA and SHAP have been to keep people stably housed and sheltered. These are important tools in the continuum of housing solutions that need to be maintained in this housing crisis.

Many families and individuals in our state are facing a lack of housing affordability, housing instability, and homelessness. We need more strategic resources to confront this growing issue, and we need the support of our state legislature to create opportunity for all Oregonians. The Emergency Housing Account is a highly flexible source of funding with a proven track record of success in keeping families in their homes and helping others find new housing. The State Homeless Assistance Program provides critical funding for emergency shelters. I strongly encourage you to support the continuation of programs so vital to the ongoing struggle against housing insecurity in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Saul".

Amanda Saul, Senior Program Director  
Enterprise Community Partners