



March 22, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON) to urge your support for HB 3192, which will invest \$5 million in flexible down payment assistance to provide a hand-up for at least 250 first-time home-buying families of moderate means.

You will be hearing from our nonprofit members around the state, who work with first-time homebuyer families to prepare them for the long-term stability and prosperity that comes with homeownership. Not only does homeownership set up children and families for success in school and employment, it anchors families in their communities and enables them to build wealth and assets for the future. Having folks move up into homeownership also frees up desperately needed units in rental housing.

One-time down payment assistance can transform a household on the margins into a family with the capacity to thrive as homeowners.

We are very excited to bring this bill forward as part of a comprehensive agenda to increase affordable homeownership in Oregon, along with home repairs (HB 2961), a revolving loan fund for home development (HB 2570), extending LIFT bond capacity to include affordable single-family homes (HB 3175), and funding for foreclosure assistance.

We urge your support of HB 3192, and we thank you as always, for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jerome Brooks
Executive Director

Oregon ON member organizations

Statewide

CASA of Oregon
Cascadia Behavioral
Healthcare
Catholic Charities
Enterprise Community
Partners
Habitat for Humanity of
Oregon
Housing Development
Center
NOAH (Network for
Oregon Affordable
Housing)
Northwest Housing
Alternatives
Rural Community
Assistance Corporation

Central & Eastern Oregon

Columbia Cascade
Housing
Community Connection
of NE Oregon
Housing Works
NeighborImpact
UGMW Nonprofit
Development
Corporation

Coastal

Northwest Coastal
Housing
Community Action
Team, Inc.

Southern Oregon

ACCESS
Housing Authority of
Jackson County
NeighborWorks Umpqua

Willamette Valley

Catholic Community
Services Foundation
Community Home
Builders
Cornerstone Community
Housing
Farmworker Housing
Development
Corporation
Housing and Community
Services of Lane County
(HACSA)
Integrated Supports for
Living, Inc.
NEDCO
Polk CDC
St Vincent de Paul of
Lane County

Willamette
Neighborhood Housing
Services

Portland Metro

Bienestar
BRIDGE Housing
Central City Concern
Community Housing
Fund
CPAH
Habitat for Humanity
Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Home Forward
Housing Authority of
Clackamas County
Housing Authority of
Washington County
Human Solutions, Inc.
Innovative Housing, Inc.
NAYA Family Center
PCRI
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
REACH Community
Development
ROSE Community
Development
Sabin CDC

...Plus over 100 businesses, government agencies, community organizations and individuals across Oregon who support our mission.