



HOUSING ALLIANCE

March 23, 2017

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Olson, Vice Chair Sanchez, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support for HB 2961. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than 80 organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities.

Homeownership is an opportunity for lasting housing stability. Owning a home requires on-going maintenance that can be challenging for homeowners with low incomes, particularly as they age and need to live on fixed incomes. A simple leak in the roof that is unable to be fixed because of the cost can lead to a loss of the whole roof, or even the entire home. A narrow doorway can confine a person using a wheelchair inside their home. Many of these issues can be prevented or remedied by making small and critical home repairs and rehabilitation efforts to maintain habitability.

A small investment can maintain these homes and create lasting stability for their owners. HB 2961 would establish a homeownership repair and rehabilitation and program that would provide grants to nonprofits to give financial assistance of up to \$25,000 to homeowners with low incomes to make critical home repairs and rehabilitation. As a flexible source of funding, nonprofits will be able to develop effective programs that identify homeowners' needs and provide repairs and modifications. This financial assistance would help enable older homeowners to age in place, and people with disabilities to continue to live independently. This small investment will provide homeowners with low incomes with long-term stability.

We have an opportunity to help Oregonians stay in homes that they own, and preserve them for future generations in a cost-efficient manner. When we maintain these homes, we also preserve communities. This program is an investment in Oregon's families and older adults, and we strongly encourage you to vote in support of HB 2961. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh".

Alison McIntosh
On behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

*1000 Friends
211info
A Community Together (Lane County)
Aging in the Gorge
Benton County Health Department
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Energy Project
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners
Evolve Property Management
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest*

*JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Mainstream Housing, Inc.
Metro
Momentum Alliance
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Tenants United
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Urban League of Portland
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services*