



HOUSING ALLIANCE

March 28, 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 2881. 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.

Our members know that across Oregon, families face terrible choices of paying rent and putting food on the table. Today, one in three renters in Oregon now experience food insecurity, meaning they don't always know where their next meal will come from. Renters in Oregon are six times more likely to experience hunger than those who own a home. In 2015, Oregon was the only state in the nation to experience a statistically significant rise in hunger rates. Researchers from OSU looked into this phenomenon and found the cause was the very high and increasing cost of housing in our state.

The Oregon Food Bank and its network of food banks and pantries across the state have been on the front lines of helping families both pay rent and put food on the table by providing access to food pantries. A small investment in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund will ensure food banks and pantries across the state can continue to meet basic needs for families and individuals.

Hunger in Oregon is a problem we can solve together. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund means supporting statewide infrastructure to deliver healthy nutritious food. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund is an investment in ensuring kids can go to school ready to learn, parents can go to work ready to be productive, and people don't have to go to bed hungry.

We have an opportunity to help Oregonians put food on the table and provide the basics for their families. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund is a critical investment in our kids, our neighbors, our families, and our seniors. We can help ensure every Oregonian has enough to eat. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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*