



April 6, 2017

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON) regarding HB 3370.

We are participating in ongoing stakeholder discussions around potential amendments to this bill, and look forward to seeing those changes.

Our main concern with the bill as currently written, which we believe will be addressed in the amendments, is that regulated affordable housing – which is subject to registration and extensive oversight by local, state, and/or federal regulators – should be exempted.

All publicly subsidized affordable housing is heavily regulated by the federal, state and local governments, and is subject to frequent facility inspections by local jurisdictions, funders, investors and lenders. It would be counterproductive, and costly, to add a new and unnecessary layer of regulation.

We believe strongly in the value of linking health and housing – innovations that improve outcomes, reduce costs, and make people's lives healthier and better. Our members are nonprofits who operate subsidized, regulated affordable housing in communities around the state. They work hard to develop partnerships and raise funds to provide a wide range of health and wellness-related programs and services for their residents. These services include everything from nutrition and exercise classes, to foot care clinics with nursing students, to health care navigation services offered in coordination with CCOs, to on-site or nearby clinics established in partnership with health providers – and so much more. All of these services are completely optional for residents, and all are subject to extensive oversight and regulation, with the appropriate protections and notifications for residents and participants.

It is also our understanding that OHCS and DHS already work together to share information about the location of housing for seniors and other residents. We support this continued collaboration by state agencies to ensure that seniors and other vulnerable Oregonians receive the appropriate information and protections from the State. Thank you very much for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerome Brooks'.

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.