



Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chair Bentz, Vice-Chair Smith Warner, and members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of the Joint Office of Homeless Services to express our strong support for HB 3357, which increases the document recording fees and will provide much needed flexible funds for the Emergency Housing Account, Veterans and affordable housing.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services is a partnership between the City of Portland and Multnomah County that leads A Home For Everyone Initiative. We unite elected leaders from Portland, Gresham, and Multnomah County, leaders from faith, philanthropy, business, and non-profit sectors, and people who experience homelessness around one plan, a shared vision and carefully chosen strategies in housing, employment, healthcare, and emergency services.

Our shared vision is to make a lasting impact on the homeless crisis through a three-pronged, balanced approach: Prevention, Shelter Expansion and Placement and Retention.

- In FY 2016, with combined Emergency Housing Assistance funds from the state, and local municipalities we were able to prevent 5,219 people from being evicted and maintain stability by keeping them in their home.
- We expanded our shelter capacity and doubled the number of shelter beds by adding 650 new beds for a total of 1,240 beds serving 6,644 people.
- We maximized the number of people transitioning out of shelter and into permanent housing serving 4,603 people.

The funds provided through the Emergency Housing Account has given stability and hope to the populations we serve. However, as we all know there is still much more work to be done in a time of budget shortfall. HB 3357 will provide additional revenues that will expand homeless services being offered throughout the state, aid organizations who build affordable housing, and continue to support families in housing crisis including Veterans, women escaping Domestic Violence, and children who would otherwise be in shelter.

We urge your support of HB 3357, and thank you for your continued service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Marc Joiln

Director

A Home For Everyone | Joint Office of Homeless Services