

LINN
BENTON



Health Equity Alliance

Working together to create healthy opportunities for everyone

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

January 30, 2018

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

The Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance is one of five Regional Health Equity Coalitions in the state of Oregon. Over the last decade, we have collaborated with people and organizations from many backgrounds to build on our community strengths; together, we work to create policy, system, and environmental change so that everyone in our two counties can lead healthy lives.

We believe that the health of a community starts where people live. Access to housing allows people an opportunity to build better lives for themselves, for their children, and for their community. It is imperative that we work to remove the barriers that people in our region face in finding affordable housing so that they can succeed in life.

It is with this goal in mind that we ask that you support HB 4007, which will increase the document recording fee to \$75. The increase in revenue will be used toward emergency rent assistance, homeownership access, and building more affordable homes – all of which will address the needs of the most vulnerable populations in our state.

Raising this fee will help ensure that parents experiencing challenges can stay in their homes and that their children continue to attend school until they stabilize their finances. Increased revenue will allow organizations to offer down payment assistance and financial counseling to families looking to purchase homes in communities where they grow and be healthy. A larger stock of affordable homes means that vulnerable seniors, veterans, and people living with disabilities can access stable homes where they can receive the care and support that they need in order to thrive.

Our coalition believes that we can make sure that everyone has access to opportunity and to a decent, stable, affordable place to call home. By investing in housing opportunities such as the increased document recording fee, we can create a better future for all of us.

Sincerely,

Clarice Amorim Freitas
Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance Coordinator