



Taking action for basic human needs.



February 6, 2018

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

Dear Chair Keny Guyer, Vice Chair Olson, and Vice Chair Sanchez:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) to express our strong support for HB 4007 which increases the document recording fee for affordable housing to \$75.

For over three decades, HSCO has convened like-minded advocates in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO is made up of over 120 individuals and organizations that work together to develop effective tax, education, health care, housing, human services and economic development policy that together make Oregon a better place for all its citizens.

All Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Today, we simply don't have enough affordable homes for people who need them, and people in our communities are struggling with homelessness, housing instability, rent burdens, and to make ends meet and put food on the table.

We know that housing and health are integrally linked. Without a safe place to call home, people cannot recover from illness, manage their care, or rest and heal. As providers of health care and human services, we know that having a home is foundational to everything else people need to be stable and to succeed.

The document recording fee is an important source of revenue for affordable housing:

- 10% of the resources go to the Emergency Housing Account;
- 14% of the resources go to the Home Ownership Assistance Program; and
- 76% of the resources go to the General Housing Account Program.

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In 2013, the Legislature passed HB 2417, which added an additional \$5 to the document recording fee and dedicated 25% of each account to serve veterans.

Investing in the basics – a safe, stable, affordable home for Oregonians with low incomes – have positive ripple effects across our state. When people have safe and stable housing, it has important and significant benefits for our kids, our seniors, and our communities.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Rigsby, Co-Chair
Leslie Sutton, Co-Chair

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