



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

February 8, 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 Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support for HB 4006, which requires local jurisdictions to hold public meetings if their communities have high percentages of tenants with a severe rent burden.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than eighty organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation 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. We represent a diverse set of voices including residents, local jurisdictions, non-profit housing developers, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Today, we know that far too many renters face what the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers a “severe rent burden,” meaning they pay half or more of their income towards rent. In Oregon, one in four households that rent their homes pay more than half of their income towards rent.

When families pay more than half of their income towards rent, it leaves too little money left over for other basic necessities such as food, medicine, clothes for their kids, or other emergencies. The consequence of this is that any unexpected bill – an ER visit, a car repair, or losing hours at work can put the family at immediate risk of homelessness.

Local jurisdictions should understand the needs of people in their community, and have more awareness of whether they have a significant percentage of their residents who are paying half or more of their income towards rent. Under HB 4006, local jurisdictions would be required to hold a public meeting, and submit information to OHCS on several key measures. While we know that shifting the percentage of people who are experiencing a severe rent burden is a long term process, we must start to address it. We believe that begins with understanding the problem, and beginning to put in place key data collection measures to understand what is happening in our communities.

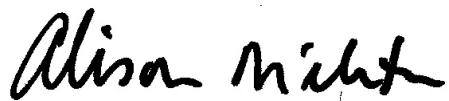
Local jurisdictions are key partners in solving our housing crisis. Together, with state resources state support, and federal resources, we can work together to determine who in our communities need housing, and develop plans to meet those needs. Planning, resources,

developer capacity, land supply, and capacity of staff at local jurisdictions are all key elements to ensuring we can address housing needs.

We also want to express our strong support for the -6 amendments, which provide more specificity to local jurisdictions about what information they are required to submit to OHCS, and also request funding for local jurisdictions to provide assistance with addressing local housing needs. HB 4006 and its -6 amendments addresses planning, and resources to develop additional local capacity.

We urge your strong support of HB 4006 and its -6 amendments. Thank you very much 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 of Oregon  
211info  
A Community Together (Lane County)  
Aging in the Gorge  
Benton County Health Department  
Benton Habitat for Humanity  
Bienestar  
Bradley Angle  
BRIDGE Housing  
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  
Housing Oregon  
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  
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority  
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 Christian Voices  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness  
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Housing Authorities  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives  
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