



February 11, 2019

Senate Human Services Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301-4047
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Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard, and Members of the Committee,

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing is non-profit community development financial institution providing financing for affordable housing developments across the state. We are writing today to express our support of Senate Bill 491 which relates to the preservation of the Fairview Housing Trust.

For decades, people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities lived at the Fairview Training Center, an institution and hospital in Salem. On March 1, 2000 the Fairview Training Center was permanently closed. Eventually the State sold the land and the proceeds from the sale were put into a trust to ensure housing opportunities for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In 2015, the Legislature created the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee, to help provide oversight and input into how Trust funds were spent. Since 2015, the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee has been working to identify priorities, and opportunities to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a safe place to call home.

In 2017, the Advisory Committee identified an opportunity to partner with Oregon Housing and Community Services and combine funds with other resources to help build accessible and affordable homes for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. Unfortunately, in 2018 the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee was unable to utilize the Trust's resources to create new affordable housing units for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities due to existing barriers.

SB 491 removes the Fairview Trust from within State Government and moves it to the Oregon Community Foundation. SB 491 maintains the purpose laid out in the Trust, to create housing opportunity for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. SB 491 will maintain oversight by the Advisory Committee, which includes individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and advocates.

By leveraging the Trust's resources, developers across the state could provide additional units for people experiencing disabilities and integrate these much-needed accessible units into their planned projects.

Oregon needs to preserve and maintain resources for housing opportunity, and the Fairview Trust is a key resource to help create housing for people who need a safe place to call home.

Urge support for SB 491.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Prasch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Prasch, Preservation Director
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing