



The Arc Oregon Programs
Oregon Special Needs Trust **(OSNT)**
Oregon Training and Consultation **(OTAC)**
Guardianship, Advocacy and Planning Services **(GAPS)**

February 6, 2019

Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 491 Relating to housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Dear Chairperson Gelsler, Vice-Chair Heard and Members of the Committee,

The Arc Oregon is an affiliated chapter of The Arc, the nation's oldest and largest organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As the state chapter, we represent more than 4,000 members in 9 local chapter affiliates throughout Oregon. For 65 years, The Arc Oregon has advocated with and for people who experience I/DD and their families, and offered innovative programs, services, and training. Our vision is a world in which every person has the opportunity and support they need to become a valued, contributing member of their community.

Affordable and accessible housing is a necessary component of every person's life, and the growing statewide housing crisis creates an even greater barrier for people with I/DD to live in their communities. To their credit, the Oregon Legislature established the Fairview Community Housing Trust with the promise to use the funds to support community housing for people with I/DD.

Since its inception the Fairview Trust has helped more than a thousand Oregonians with I/DD enhance their lives by residing in their communities. This promise made to the I/DD community must be kept and the Fairview Trust must remain intact in order to do so.

Over the years, there have been many instances in which the Oregon Department of Human Services has recommended, and legislators have considered, liquidating the Trust in order to balance the department's budget on the backs of Oregonians with I/DD. Moving the trust from the State Treasury to the Oregon Community Foundation for administration would remove that constant threat once and for all and secure the promise of housing support for Oregonians with I/DD.

The Arc Oregon strongly supports Senate Bill 491. We would like to thank the Senate Human Services Committee for hearing this bill, and thank Senator Gelsler and Representatives Piluso and Stark for their sponsorship of it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paula Boga'.

Paula Boga
Executive Director

Achieve with us.