



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

Sent via email: shs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Heard, Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon, or HSCO, to express our strong support for Senate Bill 491 and to urge your yes vote. The Human Services Coalition of Oregon has been promoting the well-being of all Oregonians through sound public policy. We aim to protect the quality of life of all Oregonians.

We are supporting SB 491 because we believe it will improve the quality of life for Oregonians who are experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities by improving the impact of the Fairview Housing Trust. Our coalition often hears from our members who provide human services or health care how important it is that the people they serve have safe, stable, and affordable housing.

For decades, people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities lived at the Fairview Training Center, an institution and hospital. When the Fairview Training Center was finally closed, and the State sold the land, the money from the sale was put into a Trust to ensure ongoing housing opportunities for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Since the creation of the trust, the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee has been working to identify priorities, and opportunities. In recent years, the Committee has identified opportunities to help create accessible and affordable housing for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities, but have experienced barriers to implementing plans and transferring funds to support the development of this needed housing.

As a result, HSCO is pleased to join the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee in advocating for SB 491, before you today. SB 491 transfers the Fairview Trust to the Oregon Community Foundation, where it will be better utilized to help create housing opportunity. SB 491 maintains the purpose laid out in the Trust, and will maintain oversight by the Advisory Committee.

SB 491 will help provide housing opportunity for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. SB 491 maintains community oversight and the purpose of the Trust. We urge your aye vote on SB 491.

Thank you for your service to our state.

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