



Taking action for basic human needs.



March 11, 2019

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

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

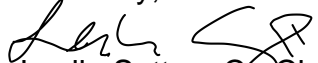
I testify today in my role as Co-Chair of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon in support of House Bill 3349 which would expand affordable homeownership and homeless services in Oregon.

HSCO's more than 120 individuals and organizations have tirelessly advocated for and served Oregon's most vulnerable residents for more than three decades. Our members provide health care, human services, housing, education, and other services to Oregonians who are poor, disabled, or otherwise in need of support. The Human Services Coalition of Oregon supports actions that make the appropriation system fair, equitable, and adequate. To further this mission, we adopted specific tax and revenue principles around fairness, adequacy, stability, and transparency. We adopted these principles in the 1990s and have used them as the foundation upon which we base our position on any revenue proposal.

Families who are homeless need additional support to survive and return to stability. Yet, the system is without adequate resources to do what evidence and experience have shown are effective means of helping these families. HB 3349 is one of the few bills that will invest millions in these programs. The revenue raised for these services comes from homeowners who do not need help purchasing a home. This rebalancing of Oregon's housing subsidies fits HSCO's principle of fairness accurately.

Please support HB 3349. Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,


Leslie Sutton, Co-Chair

HSCO Co-Chairs
Leslie Sutton Leslie.Sutton@ocdd.org 503-780-7937
Jeremiah Rigsby Rigsbyj@careoregon.org 503-382-7760