



March 21, 2019

Dear Chair Senator Gelser, Vice Chair Senator Heard, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Keenan-Mudrick, and I am the Legislative Chair for the Community Providers Association of Oregon (CPAO), which represents over 20 agencies who serve Oregon's citizens who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in various parts of the state.

I am submitting this written testimony to communicate **CPAO's Support of Senate Bill 491**.

This bill would transfer the Fairview Housing Trust to the Oregon Community Foundation, allowing this Trust to avoid further risk of being "guttled" whenever DHS cuts are required. Originally \$12M in assets, in 2011 the Fairview Housing Trust was reduced to \$6M by the legislature, being referred to as a "loan." But the \$6M borrowed has yet to be repaid. Further, year after year, this Trust is put on the potential DHS cuts list; put at risk of being depleted, permanently. Moving the remaining funds in the Trust to the Oregon Community Foundation would ensure this critical asset is safeguarded from further cuts, and that it continues to fulfill its mission.

For context: Fairview Training Center was our State's Institution for those who experience Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). At its peak, Fairview housed around 3k Oregonians. In 2000 it was finally closed, and was sold in 2002. The proceeds from the sale of the nearly century-old institution were put into a Trust to support access to community housing for Oregonians who experience IDD. This fund is often referred to as a "promise to the people," those with IDD who lived in this segregated setting for all these years. Since 2002, this Trust has been utilized to fund a myriad of accessible modifications, ensuring many with IDD are able to fully access community based housing options.

More recently, the Trust's energies have focused on how to incentivize developers to include accessible units in their plans. The Trust is critical to supporting capacity growth in affordable housing that is truly accessible to EVERYONE; specifically to our citizens who experience intellectual and developmental disability, a group of citizens who are frequently overlooked. Citizens who were segregated in Oregon in an institution that operated for just shy of 100 years, and were promised this Trust Fund to help ensure their integration into the community.

In summary, moving the Fairview Housing Trust to the Oregon Community Foundation will protect the remaining \$6M, and will allow the Fund to continue to fulfill its promise of increasing housing capacity for Oregonians with IDD. After 92 years of societal exclusion...this is truly a small, but incredibly significant move that will ensure this fund continues to provide a degree of justice to a group of citizens who were mistreated and "forgotten" for so many years. We owe this to them.

Please support passage of this critical legislation.

In Appreciation of Your Partnership and Support,

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