



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

March 21, 2019

Senator James Manning, Jr., Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 5512 – Oregon Housing and Community Services

Dear Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Portland supports increased funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) within the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) budget. Families and individuals across Oregon are at increased risk of displacement and experiencing homelessness due to an unprecedented housing affordability crisis. Increased state support for EHA and the SHAP will grow the critical safety nets needed to assist these Oregonians. The City also supports increasing the baseline for the current service level for EHA and SHAP funding to reflect and preserve recent, significant investments by the Legislature.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services, a collaborative effort of the City of Portland and Multnomah County, relies on EHA and SHAP funding to prevent homelessness through short-term rent assistance and provide emergency shelter services in our community. Women's shelters, emergency shelters for survivors of domestic violence, family shelters, veteran's rent assistance, and programs housing teen parents serve Portlanders every day through EHA and SHAP. The Joint Office has increased shelter capacity and stabilized families in their homes to prevent homelessness by aligning local funds with EHA and SHAP under the Home for Everyone collaborative strategy. Investments in these programs and services must be sustained to meet demand.

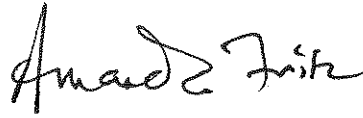
Though not directly funded in the OHCS budget, the City of Portland strongly supports investments in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) that would be administered by the agency. In October 2017, the City and Multnomah County passed a joint resolution to create 2,000 new supportive housing units over the next ten years. The City supports an increase in state funding to build new PSH, provide operating funding, and offer housing stabilization services for tenants in PSH. Additional state funding will leverage local funds and expand needed capacity.

The City of Portland urges your support for investments in these critical services to improve housing stability for vulnerable Oregon families.

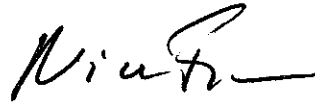
Sincerely,



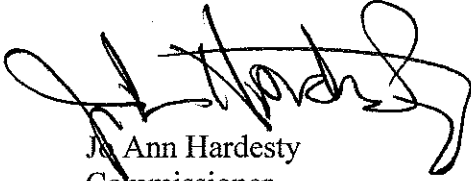
Ted Wheeler
Mayor



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Commissioner



Nick Fish
Commissioner



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Commissioner



Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner