



Oregon Coast Community Action

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March 26, 2019

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

From: Oregon Coast Community Action

Attention: Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Committee

Re: Support of SB 5512

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee,

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA), the 379 folks we served through OHCS funding in 2018 as well as the over 400 households on our wait list experiencing homelessness. We encourage you to ***support the passage of SB 5512***.

ORCCA has been providing services and resources to help people in need, fostering self-sufficiency and empowering individuals and families in Coos, Curry and southwestern Douglas Counties for since 1965. We serve low-income residents including veterans, families and folks with disabilities through a variety of housing assistance programs largely funded by OHCS. Recognizing the devastating impacts that homelessness has on young children, we are particularly dedicated to providing support to these families. At ORCCA we believe everyone deserves a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

Increased funding support for EHA/SHAP would allow ORCCA to continue to focus on serving our most vulnerable population, homeless children and those stuck in the foster care system because of lack of stable housing options. With 2017 EHA/SHAP funding, we were able to partner with DHS to reunite families by providing a safe place to live, as well as partner with local places of worship to open the first and second family friendly warming center on the Southern Oregon Coast. We are extremely proud of these accomplishments and hope to continue this critical work with necessary funding support.

ORCCA also encourages you to support ***additional funding for developing new affordable homes for sale as well as rental homes***. After completing a comprehensive housing study for both Coos and Curry Counties it is clear, the community simply needs more units on the market. ORCCA is currently working with partners on a LIFT project that supports the



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construction of 11 new units for veterans. We hope that additional funding will lead to more rural communities taking advantage of this funding opportunity.

Thank you for the time you dedicate to addressing the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lehman".

Mike Lehman

Executive Director
Oregon Coast Community Action
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