

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Attention: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee

RE: HB 5005 and request for permanent supportive housing

Greetings.

I writing to support HB 5005, and Governor Brown's request for \$50 million to build permanent supportive housing across Oregon.

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) serves Washington County and SW Portland. We are a community housing development organization that is committed to a broad range of affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing.

CPAH knows that permanent, safe and stable housing is a platform to ensure individual, family and community health. We are excited about HB 5005 and the possibilities that it creates. We know how much this is needed in the communities we serve. We have two new projects about to start construction. In Beaverton, we are focusing on homeless families because we know that the Beaverton School District has the highest number of homeless students in the state. In Tigard we will be housing people with mental illness. We hope to do more projects like this.

I had the privilege of participating on the Statewide Supportive Housing Workgroup and have a great deal of experience working in this area. I have seen first-hand the benefits of this kind of housing, from people having a place to store their medications for the first time in twenty years, to reuniting with family members who they have lost contact with, to in some cases not having to die outside and alone, and in other cases having the opportunity to stabilize and start recovering from years of drug use.

If these funds are approved it will be possible for housing agencies to build more of this housing that acts as a platform so that important community health and social services are effective. CPAH will certainly do our best to add PSH to the region we serve. We are currently exploring new locations in both SW Portland and Washington County.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for \$50 million for PSH. And thank you so much for your service.

Warmly,



Rachael Duke

Executive Director, Community Partners for Affordable Housing