



Testimony in support of HB 2530

To whom it may concern,

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem is writing in support of HB 2530. This bill seeks to create a task force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans. It would study and make findings regarding housing strategy, purchasing authority on acquiring housing and vacant developments for the use of housing veterans. It would also request the task force recommend a viable plan for implementation, identification of barriers, financial resources and overall standards for assisting our veteran population. This is a very important step for the State of Oregon.

In 2018, it was identified that Oregon was one of only 19 states with an increase in the Homeless Veteran population. In fact, according to the Point in Time estimates by State, Oregon was one of only seven states with a percentage increase of 9% or higher in change in Veteran homelessness from 2017-2018. Overall the nation saw a decrease of 5.4%.

Taking that data into consideration alongside the goals set forth in HB 2530, and on behalf of our organization, we hope that you will join us in support of this bill and the impact it could have on our State and local communities. There is no better time than the present to move towards ensuring those who serve our country always have a place to call home. We fully support the goals set forth in this bill and look forward to assisting the future task force towards solutions bettering our local community and Oregon as a whole.

Respectfully,



Jessica Blakely
Salem Housing Authority