

## In support of HB 2001

Jayne Downing, Executive Director

# Center for HOPE & SAFETY

Dear Co-Chairs Gomberg, Manning, and members of the Joint Sub-committee:

I am writing to voice my support of HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments, which would allow duplexes, tri-plexes, quads, and cottage clusters in cities of a certain size. This bill will provide a variety of affordable housing options at a time they are needed most.

Oregon's housing crisis has a particularly serious impact on victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Oregon women face significant rates of housing instability. Women who rent are the most cost-burdened in the state.<sup>[1]</sup>



*Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

The Center for Hope & Safety serves thousands of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties. CHS provides a 24-hour crisis line, emergency confidential shelter, emergency transportation, support groups, intensive case management, and many more supportive services to thousands of victims and survivors each year. We have witnessed firsthand the difficulties survivors face since the housing crisis began.

High housing cost-burdens make it harder to leave an unsafe situation and create a greater risk of abuse or homelessness. State and national surveys have identified the need for safe, stable, and affordable housing as the greatest unmet need for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in both rural and urban communities across Oregon.<sup>[2]</sup> HB 2001 will increase housing opportunities, and thus provide safety and stability for Oregon families.

HB 2001 is also about racial equity and justice. The large amount of residential land in every Oregon city that is devoted to detached, single family housing is economically exclusionary and often the result of a history of racist redlining, financial lending, and zoning practices. It's long past time to change this; all neighborhoods should be welcoming to all Oregonians.

Every Oregonian deserves a safe and stable place to call home. Passage of HB 2001 will help lead Oregon forward out of the past, towards a healthy and vibrant future where all families have the opportunity to thrive.

For all of these reasons, we urge support of HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments, and we thank you for your time and work.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Ibid

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201711/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/150533>

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*because everyone deserves a life free of violence*