



Date: 2/5/2020

RE: In Support of House Bill 4002

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. CCC operates about 2,200 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, supports 1,200 job seekers annually and operates diversion and re-entry programs for the community justice programs in Multnomah and Clackamas counties.

Access to affordable housing continues to be the number one issue our communities face. Central City Concern develops housing in the Portland Metro Area to serve people living in extreme poverty, or what can be referred to as 0-30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). We seek to serve people who have experienced long bouts of houselessness and experience complex health issues. We have been continually developing housing over the last few year nearly doubling our portfolio in the last 10 years. But building affordable housing isn't enough and we aren't able to do it quick enough to keep up with the growing income inequity ravaging our communities. Today, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's [Out of Reach](#) report, it takes making nearly \$23 per hour, or a 89 hour work week at minimum wage to afford the average 2 bedroom, putting Oregon the 14th highest in the nation for housing costs.

Even within housing developed with the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit, according to the [Urban Institute](#), nearly 40% of households need a rental voucher to avoid being rent burdened. The Oregon Metro Council recently passed a \$650million housing bond to accelerate the development of affordable housing, but without rental vouchers many of these units will remain out of reach for people struggling the most, especially those who are currently experiencing homelessness. The local housing authorities have offered rental vouchers to close this gap, but they wish they could offer more to ensure the most in need benefit from this historic investments. Similarly, the state has made and continues to make major investment in capital dollars for affordable housing, but is only able to commit to developing 1,000 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units (while faced with a nearly 13,000 unit need) because there isn't enough ongoing funding to subsidize units at levels that would reach people with complex health needs that need a PSH unit.

Rental vouchers are both a tested and proven way to end someone's homelessness and prevent future homelessness. For the community we serve, a rental voucher alone is not enough, but if paired with effective supportive services, it can permanently end someone's homelessness. Taking rental assistance and supportive services to the right scale can end homelessness as we know it.

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CENTRAL CITY
CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

Please vote YES to approve the rental voucher costs analysis and take the first step towards enacting a statewide rent assistance program.

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