

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission for Women**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
421 SW Oak St., Portland, OR 97204  
O 503.302.9725  
Email: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)  
Website: [www.oregon.gov/Women](http://www.oregon.gov/Women)

Testimony in support of HB 4001  
House Committee of Rules  
Thursday February 20th, 2020 at 8:00 am

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Warner, and Committee members Representatives Fahey, Nosse, Sprenger, and Zika:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for women and girls of Oregon urges the committee to support the passage of HB 4001 which defines "emergency shelter," requires local government agencies to permit siting of qualifying emergency shelters under certain conditions, and allows transitional housing in overnight parking areas assuring increased safety and accommodation of emergency needs. It also appropriates funds to specific cities to create navigation centers and to OHCS for technical assistance.

Recent federal and state reports have identified Oregon's unsheltered family houseless rate as among the highest in the nation, and impacting communities of color and low income women disproportionately. HB 4001 is essential legislation to empower urban and rural cities statewide address the crisis among their homeless families and individuals, establish the definitions and navigation centers necessary for moving ahead together in effective ways, and backed up with experienced technical assistance. The bill specifically identifies the leading roles of Eugene, Salem, and Bend in addressing the needs of unsheltered families with navigation centers: an important step for coupling rural expertise and effectiveness with strong resource coordination.

The Oregon Commission for Women applauds this foundational legislation and use of resources on behalf of its citizens and families struggling to overcome crisis and achieve stable, safe housing. We believe that the future success of Oregon is based on the success of its families, and that emergency shelter is fundamental to resiliency in crisis while building the long term stability and success we need.

The OCFW urges the committee's positive consideration of HB 4001.

Sincerely,

Maura Kelly  
OCFW Commissioner

Robin Morris Collin  
OCFW Chair

**OR Commission for Women**

**Chair:**

Robin Morris Collin

**Vice Chair:**

Kassandra Krifka

**Commissioners:**

Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado

Dr. Maura Kelly

Helen Richardson

**Legislative Members:**

Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson

Rep. Sheri Schouten

**Staff:**

Lucy Baker, Administrator  
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant  
Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, Research/  
Policy Analyst