



OREGON HOUSING *and*
COMMUNITY SERVICES

725 SUMMER STREET NE, SUITE B | SALEM, OR 97301
503-986-2000 | www.oregon.gov/OHCS

March 10, 2021

Chair Julie Fahey
House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2100 Next Steps

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Campos, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the engaging second day of testimony for House Bill 2100. We are eager to continue this conversation with Community Action Partnership of Oregon, the Housing Alliance, and others on a –2 amendment. OHCS is grateful for the chance to look forward towards homelessness solutions, as this growing humanitarian crisis requires urgent, concerted action.

HB 2100 has many components, what you have heard the most about is provider access to the Emergency Housing Assistance Program and the State Homelessness Assistance Program, known as EHA and SHAP. HB 2100 seeks to take a middle path, moderating the scope and speed of system change to ensure Oregonians in need feel no disruption to their services. To confirm what I stated on the record, OHCS is willing to further moderate that scope and speed; OHCS will remove the funding changes to EHA and SHAP, and add in the task force recommended by the Housing Alliance. That task force would include a clear mandate to make recommendations on the funding structure that would support our homeless service system to achieve year-over-year decreases in racial disparities and people experiencing homelessness. Our system must achieve more equitable outcomes.

Chair Fahey is convening a meeting with OHCS, Community Action Partnership of Oregon, and the Housing Alliance to discuss the specific aspects of HB 2100 and the –1 amendment that should remain in the –2 amendment. We know that we have common ground in wanting more voices at the table, to include tribal nations, culturally specific organizations, local governments, housing providers, and others in conversations they are currently locked out of. Also, we know there is support for adding SHAP, best practices, and local coordination into statute.

Over the course of these upcoming conversations, we hope to discuss a few key points. First, we must determine where and how to call out unsheltered homelessness in statute. We must also discuss how to address outcomes in statute to codify the work of the 2018 Budget Note



committee, specifically their groundwork to move the system to one driven by outcomes and data. Last, OHCS needs clarity on what programs are considered federal antipoverty programs and how future resources can be allocated.

We look forward to ongoing conversations on HB 2100 and necessary reforms to the homeless services system. We urge action this session to begin this vital work.

Sincerely,
Andrea Bell
Director of Housing Stabilization, Oregon Housing and Community Services

