



Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
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March 15, 2021

ATTN: House Housing Committee

Re: Foreclosure Counseling Resources; PCRI Support of HB 3209

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

I wanted to reach out about HB 3209, which would help provide foreclosure counseling to more Oregonians.

Since 2012, Oregon has had a foreclosure avoidance program. The Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program (OFA) provides an opportunity for homeowners to sit down with their lenders as they face foreclosure to mediate and to try to stay in their homes. OFA has been incredibly successful at helping people keep their homes, avoid foreclosure, or work out an exit from their home with their lender.

Since the creation of OFA, organizations including ours have provided counseling to homeowners before mediation, and support for homeowners during mediation. Counseling provides homeowners with support to navigate foreclosure, and we know that counseling helps homeowners get to better outcomes with their lender.

HB 3209 would provide funding for foreclosure counseling, and organizations like ours to help homeowners in our community. In addition, HB 3209 would expand eligibility for counseling to include homeowners at risk of foreclosure, which will be critical in preventing another foreclosure crisis as a result of COVID.

We wanted to reach out to ask for your support and your sponsorship of HB 3209. Please sign onto support the bill today, and we'd be happy to share more information about the successful work of foreclosure counseling in your community.

Warm regards,

Kimberly Horner, Executive Director

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI)

