

Transition Projects is the largest shelter provider for single adults experiencing homelessness in the state of Oregon. We provide life-saving services including homeless outreach, housing case management, and permanent housing placement. We are deeply invested in ending homelessness in Oregon as quickly and equitably as possible. It is for this reason that we are voicing our support for HB 2578.

Mortgage interest deduction, as it functions today, serves to subsidize the richest Oregonians and costs our state huge sums of money every single year – money that could be well spent preventing homelessness, moving people into housing, and building new affordable housing. The majority of low and middle-income homeowners do not benefit at all from this deduction and renters across the state get nothing whatsoever from this policy. In fact, current MID is one of the primary reasons in Oregon and across the state that income inequality worsens every single year. Furthermore, this deduction only worsens existing racial wealth disparities that contribute to disproportionate rates of poverty and homelessness for people of color in Oregon.

HB 2578 proposes very modest reforms to our mortgage interest deduction that we believe can make a positive impact on the state budget and better reflect the priorities of the vast majority of Oregonians. We believe that HB 2578 will free up resources that could be used to help maintain and secure housing for those Oregonians most in need of support.

For these reasons we urge you to vote yes on HB 2578.

Thank you,