



MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Housing and Development
From: Angela Durant, Principal Planner – Housing and Community Development Division
Date: April 15, 2021
Subject: Support for HB 2006

The City of Medford would like to thank the Senate Committee on Housing and Development for its consideration of HB 2006. The City is in full support of HB 2006 and HB 2004, and encourage the approval of both bills, as proposed. House Bill 2006 will provide a platform for communities to create more shelters and shelter options for unhoused individuals and families. The Bill gives communities a healthy balance during an emergent and unprecedented time by adopting policy that is supported by financial resources under HB 2004.

The City of Medford is grateful to be reintroduced in HB 2004 as a recipient of \$2.5 Million to create a navigation center. We can assure the Senate Legislature that we have not stopped efforts to identify a site and develop a sustainable operations model in preparation for these funds since Medford was included in HB 4001 in January 2020. The City has been working with nonprofit partners to prepare to expend these funds for acquisition and renovation for a navigation center that can be in full operation well before July 1, 2022.

The City of Medford is invested in serving as the state's Southern Oregon regional representative for a navigation center in accordance with Chapter 10 of HB 2006. In January 2021, the City convened over 30 partners and stakeholders to collect feedback that will be used in the development of an operations model and is currently working with a property owner to complete environmental due diligence on an extremely viable site. Federal funds from the City's Community Development Block Grant program will cover these initial assessment costs.

On behalf of our region; the City is hopeful for a passing of both bills as quickly as possible, given many jurisdictions, like Medford, may be at risk of losing viable acquisition opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for unhoused community members across the state. Passing HB 2006 on April 15, 2021 would complete a crucial step in moving us all forward in addressing homelessness.