

February 25th, 2021

RE: Opposition of HB2100

To: Chair Fahey and Housing Committee Members,

On behalf of Northwest Oregon Housing Authority, I am writing this letter to strongly request that you oppose House Bill 2100. As Chairman of a Housing Authority on the coast that works daily with local Community Action Team leaders, low-income citizens and the homeless, I am convinced this Bill will greatly disrupt and adversely affect our communities.

Our Community Action Team leaders and staff know what the needs of their communities are. They work with low-income citizens and the homeless every day. They know the people of the area. They built the relationships with our City, County, State and local service partnerships, such as our mental and physical health providers, police departments, county commissioners, juvenile and adult legal programs, school districts, health and educational, programs, **Housing Authorities** and much more.

It would take years to reestablish these relationships and the network that has been built to form a strong united community partnership. In addition, the Bills reduction of financial support by 20% the first few years and more later is not what we need to do in times of the Pandemic when we have more people than ever out of work, especially those working in services industries that are traditionally lower paid workers. CAT knows how to get the money out to those most in need of services. It has been our experience that the flexibility and responsiveness necessary to meet a community's needs, especially smaller communities, is not what the State does best. The larger the agency, the larger the bureaucracy that result in lack of responsiveness and flexibility. We need increased funding at the local level so we can increase capacity to serve more people each day. Our local community action teams are right here, in our community, not in Portland or Salem.

As a Housing Authority, we reach out to our Community Action Teams every day. They know the pulse of our community and we work in tandem with them to help those less fortunate to help with homelessness, self- sufficiency, poverty, mental and physical health issues. They are right at our doorstep willing to help. They know us and what to do to help. They are trained. Why would you want to move programs to the state, hire people who do not know all the people in their towns, increase more salaries at the State level and not be in the towns with their individual issues? That is not Unity. That is not community. We are all in this together, bigger is not better and We urge you to not support bigger.

Very Truly Yours,



Nina Reed

Board Chair, Northwest Oregon Housing Authority