

Submitter: Melissa McReynolds

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2465

My name is Melissa McReynolds and I have the privilege of living in the first cooperative housing in Oregon of its kind: 'C Street' in Springfield. This limited equity cooperative was piloted by the not-for-profit organization SquareOne Villages. I now have for the first time in my life -- even as a low-wage earner -- permanently affordable housing.

What does this mean? For me, it gives me the stability needed to give back to my community and beyond. This past Christmas and New Year's I spent volunteering at our southern border, helping migrants survive 20 degree temperatures. I never would have been able to do this if I was having to work three jobs to afford rent. I also donate blood, bake cookies for our local hospital, and serve as a diversity-equity-inclusion advocate. Did I mention I am a cancer survivor? Having an affordable, stable home is paramount in taking care of myself physically – and also mentally, emotionally, and financially.

There are too many of us facing dire straits in this statewide housing affordability crisis. Multi-family housing organized as a limited equity cooperative (LEC) can address this plight. Please support both HB2465 & HB2466. Thank you.