

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 3032

January 24, 2023

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Oregon's intensifying housing and homelessness emergency is a humanitarian crisis. We must work strategically and intentionally to find creative solutions to ensure that every Oregonian has a stable and safe place to call home. For many residents, rent over \$1000 is too much. And yet, There are an estimated 1.5 million owner occupied homes across the state of Oregon with a vacant bedroom¹ and 1 in 3 Oregon homeowners are mortgage burdened and at risk of losing their homes², many of whom are seniors. A 2018 census study by the Jesse Richardson Foundation shows almost half of Oregon seniors who own a home are mortgage-burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income on mortgages³. While home sharing won't be an option that everyone wants to consider, if even a mere 2% of those homeowners decided to rent a vacant bedroom, we could find stable and affordable housing for 30,000 people.

HB 3032 provides win-win possibilities because it builds financial resilience for at-risk homeowners while expanding access to affordable rental housing. The bill creates a tax incentive for taxpayers who rent one or more rooms long-term, as defined by 3-months, for \$1,000 or less per month. We need a wide variety of solutions to address Oregon's housing crisis and this bill is a creative and sustainable step towards increasing our immediate housing supply.

I am pleased to work with Home Share Oregon to make HB 3032 a priority so that we can expand access to housing and provide homeowners with an incentive to rent vacant rooms. Home Share builds community, maximizes existing housing inventory, prevents foreclosures and provides families, students, and seniors with achievable housing opportunities.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OR/HSG010221#HSG010221>

²

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62c360f9d0a89b345c929da8/t/63be0112b5a6e87edb6b41d6/1673396501583/Home+Share+Fact+Sheet+2023.pdf>

³ <https://jfrfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Older-Oregonians-and-the-Housing-Crisis.pdf>

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support and passage of HB 3032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain

