



Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

I am writing to you in support of HB 2889, which will require a Oregon Housing Needs Analysis to be completed within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

It is already known that Oregon is experiencing the worst housing shortage, as evident from small towns to large cities, with unhoused members of the community living on the street. The shortage of affordable housing has the biggest impact on our unhoused community: In 2020, more than 14,600 people needed housing.¹ Only five other states had higher rates than Oregon: Washington, California, Texas, Florida, and New York.¹

The number has increased substantially, with Oregon's unhoused population. As of 2022, the number has swelled to 17,859 people experiencing homelessness in Oregon.² And it's only getting worse, with a growing number of youths who are experiencing homelessness.

The soaring, uncontrolled cost of rent and the inability to buy a home, much less afford to continue paying for a home, are reasons why the unhoused community is growing. A new study called "Homeless is a Housing Problem" found that the biggest factors are a combination of high rent prices and lack of affordable housing.³

It's clear that our affordable housing availability is in a crisis: Even Governor Tina Kotek has committed to funding programs that preserve and build more affordable housing.

HB 2889 will move Oregon towards addressing the housing crisis: amending land use requirements for local governments to take into consideration growth needs, while also ensuring growth is explored with a local lens, whose needs vary depending on the region of the state.

**Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander
Affairs**

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We strongly urge you to pass HB 2889 so Oregon could improve housing density and increase housing for families while decreasing homelessness in Oregon.

Sincerely,





Jackie Leung

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<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2022/09/23/oregon-needs-thousands-of-construction-government-workers-to-close-housing-gap/#:~:text=The%20shortage%20of%20affordable%20housing,%2C%20a%20rate%20of%202.5%25.>
2. 2022 AHAR: Part 1 - PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S. | *www.huduser.gov*.
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2022-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>
3. Best, B. 2022, July 22. New Study: Housing Market Root Cause of Homelessness.
<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/new-study-housing-market-root-cause-homelessness/283-819457a7-9606-42c6-9cb3-62bd25661d2b>



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