

Submitter: Jerome Gangle
On Behalf Of: Portland Neighbors Welcome
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB2889

CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:
MAXINE DEXTER

VICE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:
MARK GAMBA

VICE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:
JEFFREY HELFRICH

House Bill 2998

2/16/2023, 8:00 AM, Salem Oregon

In Support

Hello chair Dexter, and members of the council, my name is Jerome Gangle. As a student, voter, and resident of Portland, Oregon, the housing crisis affects me personally. When it is time to move out of the dorms, I worry about finding a place to live in the city that I love, with the community that I have cultivated. Unfortunately, the housing unaffordability crisis has forced me, and thousands like me, to choose between the places that we love and being able to afford the basic necessities. This is a choice that unfortunately members of my own family have been forced to make. Despite working and having the support of a family to help him through the worst of it, my uncle is forced to live on the streets of Portland, simply because rent is beyond the capacity of him or my family to afford. This is a supply issue. There is no other reason why an ADU, tinny home, or mobile home is beyond affordability for even entire networks of people to provide.

The burden of this lack of housing supply has shifted disproportionately onto the shoulders of the young and the most vulnerable. This is not, however, an insurmountable issue. In the past we have built far more housing units than we do now, using a fraction of the workforce. We do not have the capacity to do this now because of local red tape such as zoning and building codes. This red tape put in place by local governments has consistently constrained housing supply, yet it would be unfair to place the blame onto the municipalities entirely. Local politics makes providing enough housing politically unfeasible in most cases, despite a strong desire among lawmakers and constituents to address the housing crisis. House Bill 2998 would offer local governments an incentive to plan for the housing we need, rather than the housing that it is politically advantageous to provide.

House Bill 2998 holds municipalities accountable for the restrictions that they place on the housing supply. This is nothing short of a paradigm shift for how we address housing, and I believe that passed 2998 will address many of the root causes of the housing crisis in Oregon. Frankly, we have tried every incentive, subsidy, and reward that is politically feasible so far to coax local governments into planning for the housing we desperately need, and yet the housing crisis has only worsened. I believe

that it is time to stop offering carrots and start adding a stick.