



# PROJECT **ACCESS** NOW

2/28/23

Dear Representative Maxine Dexter and members of the committee,

This session the Oregon legislature deserves praise for moving quickly to address the housing emergency. We, at Project Access NOW, are strong supporters of HB 2001, the bill that is supported by a wide variety of stakeholders, including tenant advocates, housing developers, affordable housing providers, youth advocates, and more. As a nonprofit organization immersed in the business of health equity, we have a unique perspective on the ways that housing access affects health (and subsequently the health of our society). Our community-based organization knows firsthand how in demand short term housing fixes are, as a result of poor long term housing policy. We provide emergency access to housing and rent/utility support that keep families in their homes, and last year alone, Project Access NOW pushed out more than \$5.6 million in support services for the most vulnerable in our region.

HB 2001 responds to the crisis of homelessness, improves stability and safety for renters across the state, and takes essential steps to resolve our long-standing housing supply challenges. The bill will:

- Make evictions rarer and fairer through reasonable eviction reforms that prioritize payment and stability rather than displacement
- Improve on-site workforce housing for farmworkers
- Provide critical support for homeless youth
- Increase production of affordable modular housing made in Oregon
- Create innovative finance models to build housing for middle-income families
- Establish enforceable standards for local jurisdictions to promote the production of abundant, equitable, affordable, and diverse housing options

As an advocate for equity in Oregon and CEO of an organization that sees health as so much more than a doctor's visit, I urge swift passage of HB 2001.

Thank you for your work on Oregon's housing crisis,

**Carly Hood-Ronick, MPA, MPH**

Chief Executive Officer

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