



March 7, 2023

To: Senator Aaron Woods, Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chairs, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Re: **Support for House Bill 5019**

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

The Community Alliance of Tenants urges your support for HB 5019, which appropriates \$155 million for homelessness prevention and services to address the human suffering caused by the housing crisis we're facing in Oregon. The bill follows through on Governor Kotek's Executive Orders 23-02 and 23-03 providing funds for the following:

- \$33.6 million to prevent homelessness statewide to prevent evictions for 8,750 households statewide.
- \$85.2 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in emergency areas by creating 600 new shelter beds and rehousing 1,200 homeless individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- \$27.4 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in the 26 rural counties that make up the Balance of State Continuum of Care.
- \$5 million to federally recognized Tribes to address homelessness needs among tribal members statewide, and,
- \$3.9 million for emergency management response coordination by OHCS and ODEM.

The Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) is a membership-based statewide association of over 6000 tenants. We educate and empower tenants to demand safe, stable, and affordable rental homes. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies.

Our members identified rent assistance as the key tool for stopping the homelessness crisis. This package contains important contributions to rent assistance needed in Oregon.

HB 5019 directs state agencies to work together, across all levels of government, to make the immediate and long-term changes that this humanitarian crisis requires. We appreciate the additional appropriation of \$27.4 million for the balance of state for areas not covered by the Governor's state of emergency declaration. The Community Alliance of Tenants is ready to roll up our sleeves and support efforts to get these resources out to those most in need.

We thank you for acting with urgency for an immediate down payment of resources recognizing this immediate need, and we look forward to discussions about funding in the 23-25 biennium that is commensurate with the size of the challenges.

Sincerely,



Kim McCarty
Community Alliance of Tenants