



Testimony About HB 3462
Cristina Palacios, Unite Oregon
March 21st, 2023

Good morning Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee. My name is Cristina Palacios, I am the Housing Director at Unite Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3462. Our communities need to know that Oregon will support them in the most challenging moments. This bill will get us one step closer to clearly providing equal access to resources that our families, our workers and our communities deserve.

Fair housing standards were fought for and put in place to ensure that all of Oregon's communities, our workforce and their families, have access to housing. We are asking that this standard be applied and enforced to all forms of emergency housing, including temporary shelters.

What does implementation of this HB 3462 look like? It will mean that as we build our emergency response policy as a state, we can ensure all individuals impacted in emergencies are cared for. The first points of contact for many folks is at temporary shelters. This is where information is shared, and where families can sign up for additional resources, etc.

Fair housing standards, which also include policies that encourage translation services, and protect language access is needed. If this law had been in place and enforced, many of our folks might not have been turned away and wouldn't have been scared to access services that were available. The intention is to support our workforce, especially migrant farmworkers from mixed status families, that play such a large role in supporting our economy. For example, not having language access during emergencies can disproportionately impact BIPOC communities.

We want to make sure that resources get to all folks who are working and living in our communities!

We know our needs in times of crisis far outweigh current FEMA services. But when they are available, we want to ensure they are available for all our folks living and working in rural regions. HB 3462 gets us closer to this goal. HB 3462 is a critical component of the legislature's effort to prepare and protect our communities during an emergency response. We have learned from the wildfires that emergency response for ALL displaced individuals is necessary to ensure the wellbeing of our communities.

Please support HB 3462 so everyone can get housing support during climate disasters.

Sincerely,
Cristina Palacios
Unite Oregon Housing Director.