



March 31, 2023

RE: Support for HB 5005

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of HB 5005. My name is Dwane Krumme, and I am writing on behalf Habitat for Humanity of La Pine Sunriver. We urge your strong support for HB 5005 and, specifically, its investment of \$154 million in the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) for Homeownership Program.

Habitat for Humanity partners with families of modest means to enable them to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by purchasing a key asset: their home. Habitat for Humanity of Oregon recently conducted a statewide homeowner impact study that highlights the educational benefits experienced by the children living in Habitat homes:

- 63% of the children we serve received better grades after moving into their Habitat home.
- 92% of the children raised in Habitat homes graduated from high school, exceeding Oregon's high school graduation rate by 16%.

The children of Habitat homeowners also experience improved health outcomes, receive higher adult earnings and are far more likely to become homeowners themselves.

The Local Innovation and Fast Track for Homeownership Program (LIFT HO) is one of several tools that organizations across the state use in order to create affordable homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income families and to address racial disparities in homeownership in Oregon. Since its creation in 2015, LIFT HO has demonstrated a significant impact by providing homeownership opportunities in markets where the dream of homeownership is becoming further out of reach, particularly for communities of color, and for families earning below 80 percent of area median income. The Oregon Legislature should invest in increased capacity for LIFT HO so we can take serious action on creating safe, stable, and affordable homes that Oregonians with low incomes can afford.

Our state must respond to the deepening housing crisis by making serious investments in housing opportunities. LIFT for Homeownership is an innovative tool that our state has to create more homeownership opportunities that are affordable to people with low incomes and deserves continued and robust funding.

We urge your support for HB 5005. Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwane Krumme".

Dwane Krumme  
Executive Director