



305 NE 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave Suite 100  
Portland OR 97220

February 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: UCP Connections & UCP Mentors Re: Support for HB 2001

Dear Chair Dexter and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

My name is Glenna Hayes and I am the Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator for UCP Connections and UCP Mentors. We are an organization that supports people 18 years and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Clackamas County and Multnomah County with case management services to help choose, arrange, and monitor the supports they need to live on their own or in their family homes within the community. I am writing on behalf of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors in support of HB2001.

This piece of legislation would have a large positive impact on our community. Many individuals with disabilities are on a fixed very low income which leaves the majority of our customers simply unable to afford housing in Oregon. There are many who are even having to move into residential services, like group and foster homes, because there is not enough affordable, accessible, livable housing and resources to help with rent and other housing barriers. Our community is diverse and has many intersectional identities that face housing insecurities and discriminations. When one of our customers calls due to an eviction or rent increase this sends the individuals we support into a crisis which uses more funding and often we have no options on how to get them out and into an affordable place. Many waitlists are months to years long, many of the eviction laws currently in place do not give us the time to support with moving them and often we have no housing to transition them into. We need time to help our community with the eviction process and connecting them to programs and/or resources in an accessible way. We need more affordable units and housing options for our community - we need family options, not just single occupant apartments. This type of legislation would help our community greatly by making things more accessible and working toward building the resources and renter laws we need to prevent homelessness. When people are given stable housing and housing resources we prevent a large budget in emergency/crisis services, we give people the choice to stay independent, we give the people the ability to build community.

Sincerely,

Glenna Hayes

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors