

**Testimony Submitted by  
Chris Coughlin, Policy Director  
Oregon Consumer Justice  
To the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness**

February 23, 2023

Regarding: Support for HB 2001

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 2001, which addresses our state's urgent housing needs and long-term housing supply challenges with immediate action on several fronts.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) advances a justice movement to ensure Oregonians have the freedom to thrive and equitably share in our abundance of resources. For too long, flawed systems and economic policies that favor profits over people have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing the greatest harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ organizes, advocates, and litigates to put people first. We envision an inclusive future where financial and business transactions can be relied upon as safe and where all Oregonians know and have recourse to exercise their consumer rights.

HB 2001, incorporating the amendments being considered by the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness on February 23, includes several essential elements of the response to our statewide housing crisis. The bill will:

- Provide essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction.
- Expand investments in youth homelessness prevention, prioritizing services for school-aged children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and their families.
- Provide \$20 million in grant/loan funds for constructing low-cost modular housing in wildfire-affected areas and for low- and moderate-income households.
- Provide \$3 million in seed financing to construct affordable workforce rental housing.
- Address our long-term housing production challenges by establishing enforceable standards for local jurisdictions to promote the production of abundant, equitable, affordable, and diverse housing options.

HB 2001 reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are experiencing due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

We thank legislative leaders for your bi-partisan, bi-cameral, and immediate action on this package. These measures will help our communities respond to the crisis of homelessness, improve stability and safety for renters across the state, and take essential steps to resolve our long-standing housing supply challenges.