

March 7, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods
Representative David Gomberg
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and
Economic Development
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 5019

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

Home Share Oregon 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.

Home Share Oregon prevents the trauma of homelessness before it starts by expanding access to housing through the Home Share model. Currently, almost 900 vulnerable homeowners have begun to build financial resilience by providing an affordable place to live for another person. We are thankful for the critical role we play in housing expansion as well as housing resiliency.

In addition to this initial down payment, we urge the Legislature to make significant, additional investments to rehouse and prevent homelessness for more Oregonians, build and preserve more housing units statewide, and increase homeownership. We are grateful to legislative leaders for acting quickly to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,
Tess Fields
Home Share Oregon