

Mark Meek
State Senator
District 20



Oregon State Senate

February 12, 2025

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify and share my support for SB 229. This bill would greatly impact the Bridge Meadows program, and in turn, support our most vulnerable populations in Oregon.

Bridge Meadows multigenerational housing provides benefits on multiple levels. Children in foster care are able to receive familial support in a stable, loving environment which aids in their recovery and growth. Seniors also benefit as they take on the role as grandparents and mentors. They feel valued as they serve in a fulfilling role for children who have been impacted by trauma and need critical support.

This program provides an environment where seniors, adoptive families, and at-risk youth can receive affordable housing options and support that would improve their quality of life. By supporting SB 229, we are investing in our residents' futures by not only providing additional housing, but by providing support and therapeutic programs that will have a major impact on social costs over time.

Governor Kotek's 2025 legislative priorities emphasize the importance of improving outcomes for Oregon students and developing affordable housing solutions for our residents. Bridge Meadows mission aligns with these goals by providing affordable housing and multigenerational communities. The program also reports that 100% of its youth attend school regularly, and 85% achieve greater academic success. Given the high absenteeism rates and growing need for student support in Oregon schools, investing in proven programs like Bridge Meadows offers clear path to overcoming these challenges.

I urge you to support SB 229.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mark Meek
State Senator – District 20