



February 21, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3507

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support HB 3507. This bill makes homeownership attainable for low- and moderate-income Oregonians – including first-generation homebuyers – through down payment assistance administered by culturally-responsive organizations across the state.

Many Oregonian families who are otherwise ready to purchase their first home cannot overcome the barrier of saving enough for a downpayment. As families seek to move from renting to owning, the high cost of rent means that many cannot set aside enough each month to save for a down payment, despite having sufficient income to afford the monthly cost of a mortgage. Down payment assistance funds remove this barrier. Through a modest one-time investment in each family, these funds set Oregonians up for long-term, multi-generational stability and prosperity.

Administering down payment assistance through culturally responsive organizations – as defined in statute – ensures that Oregonians whose communities have long been underserved or discriminated against when it comes to homeownership access instead have tailored support to succeed as first-time homeowners. The organizations that administer these funds provide financial counseling and coaching, homebuyer education, and ongoing support for their clients.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To that end, we urge you to support House Bill 3507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Herrington', is written over a light blue background.

Cameron Herrington
Oregon Housing Alliance
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org