



March 7, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Re: Support for HB 3589

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

Members of the Washington County Housing Advisory Committee urges your support of HB 3589, which would focus on the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in our community. We are unfortunately seeing an increase in our senior residents who are experiencing housing instability as fixed incomes are not keeping pace with the rising cost of living.

HB 3589 would provide communities, like Washington County, with the support and resources to ensure housing developments meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities to age with dignity in their homes and communities through housing that enables choice, safety and physical accessibility. The need for senior housing will continue to increase. Of the 1,708 households currently on Washington County's housing choice voucher program waitlist, 604 of those them are disabled, 428 applicants are 55+, and 241 applicants are both disabled and 55 and older. One of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population is seniors who are often on fixed incomes, may have disabling conditions, and don't have sufficient housing choices to allow them to age in place. According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Count, 22% of the 773 people unsheltered people counted in Washington County identified as 55 years and older.

The Housing Advisory Committee is composed of community members, with diverse professional and lived experiences, who advises the Housing Authority Board of Directors in Washington County on policy matters, identifies housing issues, and recommends programs and services. We, as representatives of the Housing Advisory Committee, urge your support of this bill today, and your support for all the needed investments in protecting and serving our aging community across the state.

Sincerely,
Melinda Bell, Chair
Ryan Cain, Vice Chair
Members of the Washington County Housing Advisory Committee