



March 22, 2025

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee.

My name is Kim McCarty. I live in Portland and I am the Executive Director of the Community Alliance of Tenants—Oregon’s statewide tenant-led Renters Rights Hotline and advocacy group.

I am testifying today to ask you to prioritize protecting Oregonians. We support all of the elements of the Governor's Budget Recommendation for housing. We are advocating for support of \$933 million for Housing and Homelessness and specifically \$173.2 Million for Homelessness Prevention Resources within the GRB. As this housing crisis continues, and while we are waiting for supply to catch up with demand, it is critical that we maintain focus on the prevention of homelessness and services that protect housing stability, and preserve maintenance of effort levels for programs providing services.

Support the Governors Recommended Budget for Homelessness Prevention and Support Services, Tenant Rights and Shelter (\$933 million)

Preventing and Ending Homelessness

- i. Maintain Homelessness Response System and Outcomes
- ii. Housing Infrastructure and Innovation
- iii. Housing Stabilization for People Transitioning from State Systems
- iv. Prevent Loss of Current Affordable Housing
- v. Homelessness Response and Accountability

Emergency Rent assistance funds are proven and effective tool to prevent homelessness. Those funds are running out of funding. We urge you to replenish these funds that are distributed by community action agencies and community-based and culturally-specific programs across the state. We also urge you to support the Homelessness prevention services that support housing navigation services, tenant education and outreach, legal services, tenant support, eviction prevention and rapid rehousing services. This year's eviction data illustrates the need.

There are over 2000 evictions happening monthly in Oregon. This is the highest level of evictions that Oregon has ever experienced and we do not see the trend slowing. Those who are displaced by eviction are unlikely to be able to find housing they can afford or rent assistance so the cost of housing is becoming the leading cause of homelessness. Homelessness is a growing possibility for all kinds of households including our elderly.

To not fund these programs will stop the progress that organizations who understand the local need are making to prevent homelessness and it will take years to rebuild these programs. Housing is a basic need and this is the moment that Oregon needs to focus on meeting the basic needs of Oregonians.



# community alliance of tenants

priorities to weigh.

We know that you have difficult decisions and

Please refrain from making pre-emptive cuts based on speculation. We cannot rebuild programs and community organizations and expect they will be able to meet the urgent needs of Oregonians seeking housing. Instead, we need to keep doing what we know works and strategically invest in our communities.

Please prioritize a state budget that protects Oregonians and invest in what works.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty

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