



April 4th, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of critical funding for essential services in Oregon's 2025-2027 budget. My name is Amanda Orozco, I use she/they pronouns, and I serve as a Policy Coordinator for Unite Oregon. We are a statewide organization led by people of color, immigrants, refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, working together to build a unified movement for justice.

I am here today to speak on behalf of all our members across the state in support of several key funding requests that are vital for Oregon's communities. We urge you to prioritize funding for homelessness prevention, housing stability, healthcare, and environmental resilience. These issues are deeply interconnected, and it is critical that we fund programs that support our most vulnerable communities.

1. HB 3644: \$281.4M for Homelessness Prevention and Shelter Services

This funding is crucial for maintaining Oregon's shelters and providing essential services to prevent eviction and homelessness. Specifically, \$217.9 million will support a statewide shelter program, ensuring that shelters remain open and operational throughout Oregon, providing people experiencing homelessness with safe places to stay while they work toward permanent housing solutions. Additionally, \$63.5 million will fund critical homelessness prevention services, including housing navigation, landlord-tenant education, legal services, eviction prevention, and rapid rehousing. These services are essential to helping individuals and families avoid eviction and displacement, keeping them housed and stable in their communities.

2. Senate Bill (SB) 599: Housing Protection for Undocumented Individuals

SB 599 is an important piece of legislation that prohibits housing discrimination based on immigration status. This bill will provide legal protections for undocumented Oregonians, ensuring that all residents have equal access to housing, regardless of their immigration status. It is a crucial step toward building an inclusive and fair housing system in Oregon.

3. Senate Bill (SB) 88 and House Bill (HB) 3081: Energy Affordability and Efficiency

These bills address the need for affordable energy solutions. They focus on improving energy efficiency and reducing utility costs for all Oregonians, particularly those in low-income households. By investing in these programs, we can lower energy costs, reduce environmental impacts, and support resilience in our communities.



These funding requests represent an urgent need to address housing instability, protect vulnerable communities, and ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, affordable housing and essential services. Without these investments, thousands of people across Oregon will continue to face the threat of eviction, displacement, and homelessness. We urge you to support these critical programs and allocate the necessary resources to make them a reality.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to building a more equitable and resilient Oregon.

Sincerely,

Amanda Orozco

Policy Coordinator, Unite Oregon