



St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

P.O. Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402

www.svdpc.us and on Facebook

Phone: 541-687-5820

Fax: 541-683-9423

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House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Oregon Legislature

Please support HB 4082

Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee,

We urge your support of House Bill 4082.

St. Vincent de Paul is Lane County's largest nonprofit human services organization. We began developing affordable housing in 1988 and currently own and manage about 1,400 units, including single resident occupancy, multi-family rental housing, transitional housing, senior and disabled housing, and nine manufactured housing communities.

We see a growing number of seniors accessing our homeless and shelter services—from Egan Warming Center, our low barrier emergency winter shelter program, to our year-round shelters for single adults and people living in vehicles, to our day services center, to our rental housing and manufactured home communities.

The proportion of seniors in our general multifamily housing portfolio has increased significantly enough for us to launch an “aging in place” pilot initiative shepherded by our resident services team. Aging in place offers support in three areas: preventing and managing health conditions, combating social isolation and loneliness, and end-of-life planning. It is a philosophy of care that allows older adults to age with dignity by supporting their individual priorities.

We also appreciate HB 4082's focus on manufactured housing. According to Oregon Housing and Community Service's Manufactured Home Replacement Program, some three-quarters of Oregon's manufactured home inventory is 30-plus years old, and half is closer to 50 years old.

HOPE Community Corporation, a nonprofit manufactured housing factory based in Eugene, was launched four years ago thanks to funding from the Oregon Legislature (thank you, Chair Marsh). HOPE currently manufactures two-bedroom singlewides and ADA compliant one-bedroom homes. New manufactured homes are still significantly more affordable, and they are safe, energy efficient, fire resistant and durable. Manufactured homes are a great choice to address Oregon's housing crisis.

HOPE also partners with our local school districts' technical education program, creating a first-of-its-kind workforce development program. These high school students are on-site,

learning and building homes, prepared to graduate into good paying jobs that immediately contribute to our local workforce.

House Bill 4082 will help seniors living on fixed incomes by expanding housing options that are accessible and affordable. This bill is an important tool for Oregon communities, and for affordable housing providers across the state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Black

Tim Black
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator