



March 23, 2017

To: House Committee on Human Services & Housing,

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Olson and Members of the Committee:

I am Karen Rockwell, Executive Director of Benton Habitat for Humanity (BHFH). I am writing in support of HB2961.

Founded in 1991, Benton Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We are a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Benton County, Oregon.

Our mission is to bring people together to make decent homes achievable for everyone in our community. Working in partnership with low-income families, Benton Habitat has built 36 homes and have two more underway.

In addition to our New Home Construction program, Benton Habitat offers a Home Repair program that provides interior and exterior critical home repairs for existing low-income homeowners. Since the program's inception in 2013, BHFH has completed almost 40 repairs.

Despite our efforts, we are only scratching the surface of what needs to be done to stabilize the need in our community. This bill provides essential funding resources to ensure that our seniors can remain in their existing homes longer and that our neighbors living on fixed incomes have access to essential repairs that are necessary to provide a safe and healthy environment.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill, and provide a mechanism to greatly increase our capacity to make critical home repairs in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

With gratitude

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Rockwell".

Karen Rockwell
Executive Director