

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2/25/2019

RE: HB 2662 | Relating to affordable housing tax credits

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

I am writing in support of HB 2662 which would help promote affordable housing and help a population of employees that work with some of our most vulnerable Oregonians. Direct care employment is both physically and mentally demanding work and the workers often make close to minimum wage. These workers provide a critical service for those experiencing developmental disabilities. Direct care providers attention and care to their clients, allow their clients to be safe in their environment and live a meaningful life.

Housing prices have grown to crisis numbers and direct care workers often make \$7.93 less than they would need to afford a one-bedroom home at fair market rent. These numbers continue to grow with a projection of being \$9.60 short in the year 2025. We must act now, and this bill would be a good step to provide more opportunities for affordable housing for direct care and human service workers.

At a recent meeting with the Washington County Developmental Disability Advisory Council, I heard first hand of the struggle they face with hiring and retaining direct care providers. One of those reasons was the cost of living and workers not able to afford to live in the area.

I hope that you will consider joining me and lending your support to this bill, as this creates an avenue to increase supply and provide affordable options to those who are making a meaningful difference in our communities.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janeen Sollman".

Janeen Sollman
State Representative
House District 30