



## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 5512 Senate Committee on Housing

March 27, 2019

Co-Chairs Manning and Gomberg and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 5512, the budget bill for Oregon Housing and Community Services

CASA of Oregon's mission is deeply rooted in service to farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Oregon. We seek to improve the lives of Oregonians by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities and programs that increase families' financial well-being. We are a nonprofit community development organization that works to support thriving communities by working with local nonprofits, housing authorities and local government.

Since 1988, we have helped over 5000 farmworkers and their families secure safe, decent and affordable housing. Working with our partners throughout the state, we have helped more than 4200 people to acquire nearly \$200 million in assets including purchasing a home, obtaining an education or starting a business. We have assisted residents in 14 manufactured home communities to purchase their communities via a cooperative ownership structure.

CASA partners with the department in a number of ways to help them meet our collective missions. First and foremost, we have always had a focus on serving rural communities via our real estate development and preservation activities and our asset building programs. The department's role in providing affordable housing funds and match for Individual Development Accounts is crucial to meeting the five priorities laid out in the department's Statewide Housing Plan: Equity and Racial Justice, Homelessness, Permanent Supportive Housing, Affordable Rental Housing, Homeownership and serving Rural Communities.

Given the current challenges facing huge numbers of our fellow citizens, it is imperative to fund the department at a level commensurate with the task at hand. We encourage you to support the department's budget request in SB 5512.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 5512.