

Subject: House Bill 5512 OHCS Budget – Permanent Supportive Housing Investment

To: Co-Chair Senator James Manning Jr., Co-Chair Representative David Gomberg and all the members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

From: Daniel Miller, Housing Services Coordinator, Central City Concern

Date: 3/25/2019

Hello Co-Chair Senator James Manning Jr., Co-Chair Representative David Gomberg and all the members of the Joint Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the importance of Permanent Supportive Housing

My name is Daniel Miller and I am a Housing Services Coordinator at Central City Concern

Central City Concern provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness. We operate about 2,000 units of affordable housing, serve 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, make over 700 job placements annually and operate social services for the community justice programs of Multnomah and Clackamas counties. This year, we are proudly celebrating 40 years of service to our communities

As an organization, part of our greatest strength comes through the support services that we provide to our residents.

The most effective tools in mitigating and eliminating chronic homelessness is both to make affordable housing available, and to ensure that robust Permanent Supportive Housing services are accessible to individuals who enter housing; such services enable individuals to transition from the traumatizing experience of homelessness and life on the streets, to living in safe, secure housing whereby individuals can begin to heal, to stabilize, to address complex health needs, and to integrate and be part of the community.

The residents I work with at Central City Concern have long histories of trauma and exposure to social injustice. In my experience working in Housing, I have seen that it is not sufficient only to give an individual a room and key and expect long-term success in housing, particularly when housing individuals with SPMI, histories of substance and/or alcohol use disorders, and lack of basic living skills which may stem from the aforementioned coupled with years of living on the streets. The ONLY WAY to target services for individuals with complex health issues is through Supportive Housing.

Supportive Housing must be taken to scale to see a visible difference in homelessness. We have more capital investments on the table than ever before, but we need long-term service dollars to ensure the success of Permanent Supportive Housing. Supportive Housing is the most effective way of adequately addressing chronic homelessness.

Contact: Mercedes Elizalde (Mercedes.Elizalde@ccconcern.org)



We urge you to support deep investments in OHCS (Oregon Housing and Community Services) and pass SB 5512 as-is or with additional allocations for Supportive Housing.

My name is Daniel Miller representing Central City Concern, and I thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Thank you,

Daniel Miller
Central City Concern

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