



March 25, 2019

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

From: Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO)

Attention: Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee

RE: Support of SB 5512

The Board of Directors of CAPO support SB 5512, the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) budget designed to provide additional funds to prevent and end homelessness.

CAPO strongly supports increasing base funding for EHA/SHAP to \$50 million, allowing the network to plan long term and build the infrastructure to serve more people. CAPO is Oregon's poverty-fighting network with the mission to increase resources and opportunities so that all Oregonians thrive. With EHA and SHAP funds, CAPO's 18-member Community Action agencies provide homeless prevention, rapid re-housing and shelter services to vulnerable households, including families with children, veterans, seniors and people with disabilities

The additional \$20.5 million in funds included in the budget that will focus on families with children is particularly important. Too many young children are living in unstable housing situations. In order to succeed in school, children need a stable and safe place to call home.

Funds designated to develop new affordable housing (\$200 million) AND to preserve existing affordable housing (\$100 million), is critical. Oregon must continue to fill the affordable housing gap by building new and preserving current housing stock.

Thank you for your support of Oregon households who must have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home. With your support, Oregon's Community Action network will continue to move individuals and families out of unstable living situations by providing housing and services designed to support opportunities for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barb", written over a light-colored background.

Barb Higinbotham,
Executive Director
Community in Action
President, CAPO Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Merrell", written in a cursive style.

Janet Merrell
Executive Director
CAPO