



TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FR: Paul Solomon, executive director, Sponsors, Inc.
DA: April 1, 2019
RE: Support for SB 8

Board of Directors

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Staff

Paul Solomon
Executive Director
Nick Crapser
Deputy Director
Laura Johnson
Director of Program Development

Chair Fagan and members of the committee:

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the Executive Director at Sponsors, Inc, based in Eugene. Since 1973, Sponsors has been a leader in the implementation of evidence-based practices in prisoner reentry, providing housing, treatment and ancillary services to men and women in Lane County.

Sponsors provides transitional housing and services to men and women reentering Lane County from jail or prison. We operate 20 buildings on seven sites in Lane County with over 200 units of housing for men and women with criminal histories and ancillary programs. We recently launched a new collaborative, The Way Home, with Lane County Parole & Probation and Homes for Good, the county's housing agency. This project provides homeless individuals returning to the county from prison with intensive services and permanent supportive housing. This project will build on years of similar successful work, which has allowed us to serve thousands of men and women on active supervision. In the last year alone, we have provided housing services to 590 people; CBT to 1,415 individuals; Mentoring (pre and post-release) to 248 people and a whopping 1,226 people received services through our Employment Program and Legal Clinics. None of which could have been done had our project been stifled by overly costly challenges to our project.

In 2016, Sponsors partnered with Homes for Good, Lane County's Public Housing Agency, to develop the Oaks at 14th, a 54-unit affordable housing apartment community designed to house people with conviction histories. We engaged in a thoughtful proactive process to inform and educate neighbors about the development. Nevertheless, one neighbor sought to appeal the issuance of building permits to LUBA on frivolous grounds. As a result, we spent over \$40,000 on attorney and consultant fees. That does not include the inordinate amount of staff time nor delays to the project.

At Sponsors, we value, and understand the need for, public process and input into the land use system. However, we also know that there are significant issues with NIMBYism that have negatively impacted affordable housing developments. We believe that Senate Bill 8 finds a way to make it manageable for, largely, non-profit organizations that have frequently have tight budgets to continue to build affordable housing throughout Oregon.

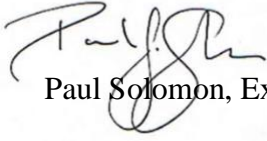
Services for People with Criminal Histories Since 1973

Phone: (541) 485-8341 Address: 338 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402 Fax: (541) 683-6196

Tax ID# 93-0639815

Please join us in supporting SB 8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Solomon" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Solomon, Executive Director