



COMMUNITY ACTION

2475 Center St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ph. 503-585-6232
Fax 503-375-7580
www.mycommunityaction.org

***HELPING PEOPLE
EXIT POVERTY***

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Chair Nathanson and members of the Revenue Committee:

The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) provides a wide variety of services for low income individuals in our community and homeless services for Polk and Marion counties. As the Executive Director of MWVCAA, I have designed entry systems to help approach and rehouse homeless populations for twenty-eight out of thirty-six Oregon counties.

In Oregon and across the United States, we are seeing a huge growth in the homeless population over the age of 65, accounting for 5% of the homeless population and growing.

Housing prices and rents have increased so dramatically that older populations are being priced out of their homes at an increased rate. This population doesn't fit the traditional profile of homelessness; they do not struggle with drug addiction and aren't experiencing a mental health crisis. The primary reason they are unable to rehouse is pure economics.

Oregon is never going to build or subsidize itself out of this affordability crisis; we have to be able to explore other options. Counties need innovative solutions like Senate Bill 1045 to provide a third option: home sharing. By allowing counties to opt in to providing a tax exemption for home sharing, you're created another opportunity to connect older adults living on small, fixed incomes with stable housing.

There is an enormous social cost to leaving people outside and unhoused. Please support Senate Bill 1045 so counties have another tool to utilize to address the housing affordability crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 1045.

Yours respectfully,



Jimmy Jones
Executive Director