



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Joint Ways & Means Transportation Subcommittee
Testimony in Support of HB2001, Dash 16 amendment
June 11, 2019**

Dear Co-Chairs Gomberg, Manning, and members of the Joint Sub-committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, **I write to urge your strong support** HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments, which would allow duplexes, tri-plexes, quads, and cottage clusters in cities of a certain size. Passage of this bill will increase the diversity of affordable middle housing options in neighborhoods that have long been exclusive.

Access to fair, stable, affordable housing is critical to reducing the risk of sexual violence, and would **alleviate some of the disproportionate burden on victims of sexual assault**.

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, Prevention Education, and Victim Response.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

Oregon's housing crisis has a particularly serious impact on victims of sexual and domestic violence, including youth and children. Women in Oregon experience significant rates of housing instability; those who rent are the most cost-burdened in our state¹.

High housing cost-burdens make it harder to leave an unsafe situation, and create a greater risk of abuse or homelessness. State and national surveys have identified the need for safe, stable, and affordable housing as the greatest unmet need for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in both rural and urban communities across Oregon².

¹ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201711/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/150533>; <https://nnedv.org/mdocs-posts/2017-oregon/>

² Count Her In 2017: <https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/uploads/CountHerInreport.pdf>

Access to affordable housing is a protective factor against violence in our communities, as it reduces housing instability, which is often when women and youth experience sexual violence. HB 2001 will increase housing opportunities, and thus provide safety and stability for Oregon families.

HB 2001 is also about racial equity and justice. The large amount of residential land in every Oregon city that is devoted to detached, single family housing is economically exclusionary and often the result of a history of racist redlining, financial lending, and zoning practices. It's long past time to change this; all neighborhoods should be welcoming to all Oregonians.

All Oregonians deserve a safe and stable place to call home. Passage of HB 2001 will help lead Oregon forward out of the past, towards a healthy and vibrant future where all families have the opportunity to thrive.

For all of these reasons, we urge support of HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments.

Thank you for your time, hard work, and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



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