



Native American Youth and Family Center

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February 5, 2020

To: Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: HB 4002 – Authorizing OHCS to study long-term rent assistance

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing, my name is Miranda Mishan and I serve as the Community Development Policy Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 4002.

At NAYA, we offer a range of housing support services to promote housing stability among low income communities and communities of color. Multnomah County's 2019 Point-In-Time count shows that Native Americans continue to be the most over-represented community among the homeless population; 12% of respondents were Native American, compared with 2.5% by census. While the overall homelessness rates slightly decreased since 2017 for most other ethnic groups, rates among Native Americans worsened significantly. With rental costs rising we can only expect this to worsen over time. It's suffice to say, Oregon is experiencing a housing crisis, and the communities NAYA serves will continue to feel the effects in full force.

NAYA offers a range of housing support services including short term rental assistance for homeless families, youth and victims of domestic violence, in order to mitigate challenges posed by to keep our community members housed. In addition, we provide Rent Well classes to assist

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those who need support in finding stable housing. Still, longer term solutions are critical in addressing housing affordability. With House Bill 4002, we have an opportunity to explore the potential for the long-term rental support that our communities desperately need. While it is not a complete solution, we see it as an essential step in creating stability amidst a housing emergency.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, we urge the passage of House Bill 4002 – providing a vision, stability, and prosperity for the communities we serve.

Thank you again for your time.

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