

Kate Brown
Governor



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Testimony in support, HB 4164
House Committee on Revenue
Monday, February 17, 2019 at 8:30am, HR A


Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Marsh and Reschke, and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women and girls of Oregon, urges the committee to support the passage of HB 4164 to increase rates that the metropolitan service district is authorized to tax up to two percent. This bill would enable the metro service district authority to impose a tax rate above one percent and require those revenues to fund support for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Between 2017 and 2019, 4,015 people experienced homelessness on any given night, just in Multnomah County. Portland's rate of chronic homelessness has increased at twice the national rate and Oregon is one of only four states where more than half of the homeless population is living unsheltered. The Federal Discretionary budget that goes to the Department of Housing Funds and Urban Development, which helps fund supportive services has decreased from 14 % in 1978 to just 2.7% in 2018. It is crucial that Oregon establishes funds to supplement this loss and help prevent homelessness before it starts as well as provide services to those that are currently homeless.

These funds will provide more resources for people of low income that are at risk of becoming homeless as well as people who are currently homeless. The Oregon Commission for Women urges the support of HB 4164.


Maura Kelly, Commissioner


Robin Morris Collin, Chair

OR Commission for Women

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