



## LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, Director of Advocacy  
In Support of HB 4164  
House Committee on Revenue  
February 17th, 2020**

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

Latino Network supports HB 4164, which seeks to increase the maximum tax rate a metropolitan service district may impose from one percent to two percent. We are proud to be part of an initiative by a coalition of community-based organizations leading the efforts in addressing home stability and houselessness.

**HB 4164 will allow Metro regional government to elevate their income tax cap rate from 1% to 2% to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and must be implemented before January 2, 2021.** Latino Network works to ensure our youth and their families have the best chance for success. For our low-income families, however, a job loss, unexpected emergency room visit, or rent hike can be detrimental to their children's future and their families' stability. Latino Network's Family Stability Programs help families to connect to the resources and assistance they need. Our bilingual/bicultural case managers provide culturally-specific, intensive support to help families secure stable, safe and affordable housing

**HB 4164 will allow an initiative to be presented to the voters in order to adequately serve those without stable housing or those facing homelessness.** The Portland Metro region has 5,016 homeless people sleeping outside or in shelters on any given night. The tri-county area has countless service providers doing literally lifesaving work every day. They are not yet funded at a point that matches the scale and scope of the crisis. By supporting HB 4164, the coalition will have the opportunity to present voters an adequate funding option to these services.

**Lastly, HB 4164 will allow leaders in the community, if successful in the ballot, to strategize in long-term and episodic cases of houselessness and its root causes.** This includes mental, behavioral, and substance use counseling; additional case workers; genuine income opportunities such as job training; and increase access to affordable housing. This regional change will be an historic approach and investment to

the community that may create a blueprint to replicate in other parts of the state and the nation.

**For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request that you support HB 4164.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.