



March 9, 2021

Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2100

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share support for the intent behind HB 2100, to update and modernize the statute governing our state's homeless assistance resources. As you know, the LOC represents all 241 incorporated cities in Oregon, which have been leading on-the-ground response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic impacts. Cities large and small prioritized federal CARES Act funding and local resources to provide relief to residents experiencing housing and food instability. In partnership with counties, community action agencies and local community-based organizations, cities funded emergency rental assistance, utility assistance, non-congregate shelter facilities and operations, childcare, food, and more.

In fact, Oregon's 14 entitlement cities were the first to administer emergency rental and utility assistance during the pandemic, using CARES ACT Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds. These cities also recognized the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Oregon's BIPOC communities, and directly contracted with local culturally specific organizations to reach underserved residents. In several cases, cities leveraged the CDBG-CV funds to form new partnerships and serve communities for the first time.

This is all to emphasize that cities are committed to the goal of HB 2100, to create more equitable outcomes for Oregon's Black, Indigenous, and people of color and to modernize state statute to reflect current best practices. As the Legislature considers how best to proceed with HB 2100, the LOC asks that you retain coordination with local government efforts and include cities at the table. The LOC commends the state's leadership on HB 2100 and we look forward to strengthening our partnership to ensure we are aligning state and local efforts to dismantle structural racism, support and empower culturally-specific community based organizations, and strengthen Oregon's homeless delivery system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariel Nelson
League of Oregon Cities