



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2007
House Committee on Housing
March 30, 2021**

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos and Morgan and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. CASA is a nonprofit community development organization that works throughout Oregon to support thriving communities. We work with local nonprofits, housing authorities, governments and communities to help meet the housing needs of families, farmworkers, seniors and the disabled. We also provide asset-building opportunities via individual development accounts and financial inclusion services.

The 2018 legislature wisely established the Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership (HB 4010). This task force has made some excellent recommendations which are incorporated into this session's HB 2007.

HB 2007 will continue and expand the work done by the 2018 task force. The continuation of the Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership is an important step to addressing the wealth gap that keeps Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) from accumulating wealth.

HB 2007 will also provide funds to ensure that homeownership opportunities are available to BIPOC communities. The need to support these communities has only grown more acute with the wildfires of the past year. In places affected by last year's wildfires, families who had previously owned their homes are now struggling to even find a warm place to lay down their head. The funds in this bill are a start to ensuring that long-term affordability and opportunities for generational wealth building are front and center as we all face our obligations to deconstruct our past racist policies and systems.

I urge you to enact HB 2007.

Thank you for your service to the people of Oregon