



Date: 4/1/2021

RE: Support for SB 852

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 12 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually and operates social services for the community justice programs in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. **Our programs and properties span Senate Districts 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25; and House Districts 33, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 50**

Our communities are safer when people have stable housing. Right now, the largest housing subsidy the state of Oregon provides is directly provided to people who are already housed, and further has greatest benefit for people with the highest incomes and most expensive homes (and those with multiple homes). SB 852 is a common-sense proposal that aims to right sizes our housing subsidies and ensure we are supporting communities who have been most disenfranchised and who need housing support most. Only 1 out of 4 households who qualify for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program actually get assistance. The estimated wage someone has to earn in Oregon to have housing stability is \$24 an hour, which is \$10 more an hour than the current minimum wage. This means we ration help to those who need it most, while guaranteeing subsidies to people who own multiple homes and have the highest incomes in the state.

We thank the legislature for reviewing this policy and hope to see a reform that puts our housing funds where they are needed most.

Thank you,
Mercedes Elizalde
Public Policy Director