

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is AJ Klausen, I am the president of the Y Veterans Housing Board of Directors. Please allow me to submit brief testimony about the Y Veterans Housing project. Two years ago this committee and this legislature authorized \$5 million dollars to the Salem YMCA Y Veterans Housing project. Our project has secured the land which is across from the current YMCA location across from the Capitol and across from the War Memorial on Cottage and Court. Originally, we were gifted \$5 million dollars, \$1 million in general fund dollars for pre-development work and \$4 million for the project completion. Currently we are utilizing the \$1 million in pre-development funds to advance the project. COVID came, and ours and many other projects across the state lost their critical funding. Currently we have secured the land where we plan to build which is directly across the street from the Y and the War Memorial. Estimated value of the land is \$500K. We have contracted with Home First and their architect and have complete drawings of the new facility. We will have 34 units available for Veterans in need of affordable housing. They must meet the 60% medium income level to qualify. We are also working to provide wrap-around services which is likely to be two FTE's of specialist who can provide key support to the Veterans who will be our residents. We are at the end of the permitting process with the City of Salem and with early funding, we could start construction as early as August of this year. Knowing there may be options for funding, the Y Veterans Housing board ask that if there are other affordable housing funds available, other than lottery dollars which would be accessible in the early fall, then that would allow us to proceed 10 months ahead of what we would have to do if our funding is lottery bonds. If we secure lottery dollars, then the project will start next June after the lottery bonds are sold in January or February. Either way we are extremely thankful for the potential of securing these funds to complete our project. Due to dramatic increases in lumber, concrete and steel cost, our formal request re-submission is seeking \$6 million dollars. This would allow us to complete the project with no debt. We would be happy to answer any questions that may come up. We are very thankful for your support of this important and one-of-a-kind project in the State of Oregon.