

March 1, 2021

House Committee on Housing
Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Winsvey Campos, Vice Chair
Representative Lily Morgan, Vice-Chair
Representative Pam March
Representative Mark Meek
Representative Courtney Neron
Representative Suzanne Weber
Representative Jack Zika

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos & Morgan and committee members;

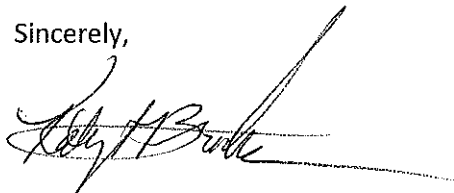
This is to raise questions regarding HB2100. I am writing this as a citizen of Central Oregon. I also am CEO of the Bend Chamber of Commerce and a member of the state Early Learning Council. Conceptually, I agree that ensuring equity in state housing funding to underserved communities is essential.

My concern is whether redirecting 20 percent of homeless services funding from the existing network of community action agencies, like Neighbor Impact in Central Oregon, would take away from funding that is at this time reaching those in need. Organizations like Neighbor Impact are efficient, they know our communities in need and how to serve them. They disperse life-changing funds in our region to continue to fight poverty and provide shelter and services.

Our local community action agency relies on this funding to serve Central Oregon and has the people, infrastructure, and long-term stability in place to plan for and carry out this important work. Although HB 2100 is well intended to create racial equity and serve local, minority communities, I am concerned it will delay much needed funding to regions across the state. I ask whether we will achieve any significant improvements throughout Oregon on equity of housing and security through HB2100.

I urge you to consider reaching out to regional service agencies and considering their input on whether this bill achieves its goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Brooks', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katy Brooks
Bend Resident
CEO, Bend Chamber of Commerce
Member, Early Learning Council