

February 9, 2022
Members of the House Committee on Housing
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301



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

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), representing Oregon's 36 county governments, and the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), representing 241 cities, we offer the following comments in strong support of House Bill 4123.

The pilot projects outlined in HB 4123, and signatories to this letter respectfully urge the committee to support HB 4123, and thank Representative Kropf and the other bipartisan, bicameral sponsors of this critical piece of legislation.

HB 4123 establishes locally-led, regional housing coordination through eight pilots across the state, which were selected based on readiness and current homeless response work they are involved in now. Each pilot will receive \$1 million in state funding over two years to operationalize coordinated offices to strengthen their communities' homeless response. These pilots are not intended to be duplicative of existing work in the community, nor are they intended to take on the role of direct service delivery.

The bill includes minimum standards for each pilot. Each pilot will be required to create a plan for sustained funding beyond the two-year pilot and will be charged with creating a plan to address racial disparities within their service area.

These standards provide a basic structure for accountability and the reasonable use of funds, while giving communities the flexibility to model local best practices and create efficiencies in their regional homeless response systems, improving access to resources and services for Oregonians experiencing homelessness. The required coordination with existing community partners, culturally specific organizations, and state and federal systems intends to build on Oregon's developing homeless response strategy, including critical connections to permanent affordable housing.

There is exciting work happening at the local level in homelessness response. HB 4123 will bolster this work, creating strategic vision while maintaining the flexibility that localities need to respond to their differing circumstances. The report-back portions of the bill will allow lessons learned and opportunities to be shared statewide.

The local governments creating the eight pilot projects in the bill, AOC and LOC respectfully encourage the committee to advance this bill.

For more information, please contact:
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