



February 2, 2023

Chair Nathanson and Committee Members,

We are writing to share our deep concern and opposition to section 3 of HB 2548, which would diminish local control by revoking voter's right to address issues of local concern.

In 2020, the HereTogether coalition, which includes business leaders and service providers alike, came together to develop and pass Metro's Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure, which is intended to provide funding to address homelessness at a scale that matches the scope of our region's crisis.

As the coalition considered how best to raise the revenue for the Supportive Housing Services measure, we opted to pursue a regional tax because while homelessness and a lack of affordable housing is a statewide concern, the scope and scale of the crisis is greatest in the Portland Metropolitan region. Section 3 of HB 2548 would remove the local authority voters currently have.

The negative impact section 3 of HB 2548 is not simply theoretical. We believe this provision, if passed, could have a catastrophic impact on the ability of the Portland Metro region's service providers and local governments to address homelessness. Backers of SHS included a 10-year sunset to give voters more control and authority to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Passage of section 3 of HB 2548 would put this voter approved program at risk of ending, even if local voters would wish to continue funding services and housing for the most vulnerable in their community.

In the first 15 months of [Supportive Housing Services implementation](#), thanks to these game changing regional funds, 2,203 people were moved from homelessness to permanent housing, 9,368 people avoided eviction and were prevented from becoming homeless in the first place, and 991 shelter beds were created or sustained across the Metro Region. These figures are thanks to funding from SHS alone. Moreover, these funds have allowed Clackamas and Washington Counties to scale up their homeless service programs in ways they have never been able to before due to lack of funding and resources.

The investments from SHS are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people currently living on our streets—and the work is just getting started. These funds are critical to placing thousands more people into housing, and providing the rent assistance and support services to help them stay housed long term.

We urge the members of this committee to oppose HB 2548 as currently drafted.

Sincerely,



Andy Goebel, Executive Director,
All Good Northwest



Jill Orr, Executive Director,
Clackamas Service Center



Chris Bonner, Realtor with Cascade Hasson
Sotheby's



Bridget Dazey, Executive Director,
Clackamas Workforce Partnership



Eric Sevos, Chief Strategy Officer,
Cascadia Health



Rachael Duke, Executive Director,
Community Partners for Affordable Housing



Jonathan Frochtz wajg, Public Policy and
Grants Manager, Cascade AIDS Project



Anna Kurnizki, Executive Director,
Community Warehouse



Caleb Coder, Executive Director,
Cultivate Initiatives



Bridget Calfee, Executive Director,
HomePlate Youth Services



Rowie Taylor, Executive Director,
Domestic Violence Resource Center



Brian Hoop, Executive Director,
Housing Oregon



Eboni Brown, Executive Director, Greater
Good NW



Andy Nelson, Executive Director, Impact NW



Christina Dirks, Interim Director of Policy
and Planning, Home Forward



Stacey Rutland, Founder, Income Movement



Nate Ember, Principal,
Architect, Ink:Built Architecture



William Miller, Executive Director, NAYA
Action Fund



INNOVATIVE HOUSING, INC.

Sarah Stevenson, Executive Director,
Innovative Housing, Inc



Brad Twiss, Owner and Principal Broker,
Neighbors Realty



Katrina Holland, Executive Director, JOIN



Sean Suib, Executive Director,
New Avenues for Youth



Rose Fuller, Executive Director,
Northwest Family Services



Brandi Tuck, Executive Director,
Path Home



Trell Anderson, Executive Director,
Northwest Housing Alternatives



Kristle Delihanty, Executive Director, PDX
Saints Love



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Laura Golino de Lovato, Executive Director,
Northwest Pilot Project



Rob Shryock, Co-Executive Director,
Operations, Portland Street Medicine



Andy Miller, Executive Director,
Our Just Future



Diane Linn, Executive Director, Proud
Ground



Dan Valliere, Executive Director, Reach CDC
Peter Clements, Sr. Housing Development
Project Manager, Reach CDC



from homelessness to housing
Joy Jones, President and CEO,
Transition Projects



Ana Meza and Nick Sauvie, Co-Executive
Directors, ROSE CDC



Molly Hogan, Executive Director,
Welcome Home Coalition



Marcia Hille, Executive Director, Sequoia
Mental Health Services



Andrew McGough, Executive Director,
Worksystems, Inc