



February 26, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 603

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

Welcome Home Coalition, over 80 nonprofit organizations in the Portland Metro Area with the common vision of ensuring everyone has access to an affordable and stable home in our region, urges your support of Senate Bill 603. SB 603 establishes the People's Housing Assistance Fund Demonstration Program. This program, offering monthly direct cash assistance payments to improve the lives of households living on lower incomes across the state of Oregon, reflects many successful guaranteed basic income programs around the country.

A recent study of 20 guaranteed income programs from across the nation shows that these programs are lifelines for working families and especially for parents of color.¹ Basic income programs show that people spend cash assistance to improve their children and families' lives.

Further, this program would be yet another tool we can use to tackle the housing crisis. Households that are currently on waitlists for existing affordable housing programs – including housing vouchers and affordable rental housing – are eligible for the demonstration program. These are households that already qualify for housing assistance but are not receiving it.

We are grateful to legislative leaders like you, for your bipartisan support and immediate action to move forward this innovative and important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Hogan".

Molly Hogan
Director, Welcome Home Coalition

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-28/for-more-than-20-guaranteed-income-projects-the-data-is-in>