



We provide comprehensive family violence and sexual assault services in Central Oregon and promote the value of living life free from violence.

March 03, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods  
Representative David Gomberg  
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means, Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 5511

Dear Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

Saving Grace of Central Oregon urges your support for Senate Bill 5511.

We serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Central Oregon. I manage the Saving Grace Survivor Housing Program. While our program is often successful in assisting survivors in having safe, long-term housing, there are too many situations in which there are no good and sustainable housing options.

It's heartbreaking to speak with moms with children who have no other option than to relocate to their car, or to someone's unheated shed, or to another unhoused situation. The lack of housing and shelter options is often the primary barrier that leads women and their children to become homeless, or to stay, or return to a violent and unsafe household. This is a public safety concern. It affects the future of too many individuals and children in Oregon. More state investments are needed to ensure that people can access a safe and stable home for themselves and their families.

These historic investments of SB 5511 will make significant progress towards Governor Kotek's annual production target to produce 36,000 housing units per year. It took years for Oregon to get into our current housing and homelessness crisis. We're going to need a sustained multi-year commitment to produce the housing supply we need in the next ten years. This budget proposal is an important step in the right direction.

The Governor's Recommended Budget includes over \$1.46 billion to address housing stability and community prosperity. Balancing the needs of Oregonians experiencing homelessness with

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- Survivor & Saving Grace client**



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addressing chronic supply shortfalls, the biennial budget represents the largest request any Governor has proposed.

One amendment to the allocation of funding is to increase the general fund investment from \$7.5 million to \$35 million. This will ensure more greater access to homeownership and asset building for lower to mid-income families. Through homeownership, comes true self-determination, independence, and control over one's finances and one's future.

***Once again, I urge your strong support of SB 5511.***

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

**Beth Jacobi (she/her)**

Housing Coordinator at **Saving Grace of Central Oregon**

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