



March 6, 2023

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

Re: Support for House Bill 5019

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

Impact NW urges your support for HB 5019, which appropriates \$155 million for homelessness prevention and services in Oregon. The bill follows through on Governor Kotek's Executive Orders 23-02 and 23-03 providing funds for the following:

- \$33.6 million to prevent homelessness statewide to prevent evictions for 8,750 households statewide.
- \$85.2 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in emergency areas by creating 600 new shelter beds and rehousing 1,200 homeless individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- \$27.4 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in the 26 rural counties that make up the Balance of State Continuum of Care.
- \$5 million to federally recognized Tribes to address homelessness needs among tribal members statewide, and,
- \$3.9 million for emergency management response coordination by OHCS and ODEM.

Impact NW is the largest, most comprehensive organization in the region dedicated to preventing homelessness. We have been in the community for nearly 60 years working on our community's most pressing needs. We work with 22,000 people a year in the Portland-Vancouver area with stabilizing and strengthening services to keep people housed. Our staff are on the frontlines of the housing and homelessness crisis, and pandemic recovery to help people access services such as housing, rental and energy assistance, other basic needs, and upstream supports so they can thrive. Impact NW supports HB 5019 and is ready to get these resources out to those most in need.

In addition to this initial down payment, we urge the Legislature to make significant, additional investments to rehouse and prevent homelessness for more Oregonians, build and preserve more housing units statewide, and increase homeownership. We are grateful to legislative leaders for acting quickly to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Andy Nelson
Executive Director, Impact NW