



March 7, 2023

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, Members of the Subcommittee,

Metro supports HB 5019, which would provide the Governor funds to carry out executive orders related to the homelessness state of emergency.

Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities.

In recent years, Metro partnered with stakeholders to ask voters to support housing for our region's vulnerable community members. Historically, local systems of homeless services and affordable housing have been deeply underfunded compared to the funding that is needed. In 2018, Metro voters approved an affordable housing bond that will have generated over \$650 million with the goal of creating homes for approximately 12,000 people through the creation of 3,900 affordable homes.

In May 2020, voters in greater Portland approved a Supportive Housing Services measure to fund services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Funds from the SHS measure can be used for supportive services such as outreach and emergency shelter, placement into housing and help paying rent, advocacy and case management and services in the areas of mental health, physical health, language and culture needs, education, employment, addiction and recovery, tenant rights and others. The goals for the 10-year fund are to connect 5,000 chronically homeless households with supportive housing and stabilize 10,000 households at risk of or experiencing homelessness in permanent housing.

In the last couple of years since Metro's voters brought us into the affordable housing and supportive housing space, we know that this housing and homelessness crisis will continue to be exacerbated if we cannot stabilize folks in their current homes and stop the inflow of folks into homelessness, and rapidly develop affordable housing. The Governor's request in HB 5019 provides funding for all of these areas of the homelessness crisis.

We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Jenna Jones
State and Regional Affairs Advisor