



March 7, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair

Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair

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:

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) urges your support for HB 5019, which appropriates \$155 million for homelessness prevention and services to address the worst effects of the housing crisis we're facing 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 26 rural counties making 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.

As Oregon's only academic health center, we see the impacts of the housing shortage first hand. Hospitals and emergency departments throughout Oregon serve a lifesaving role in providing acute care and as a safety net for individuals unable to receive care anywhere else. We are both

the front door for people in need of care and for many the option of last resort. Without access to housing, individuals living in unsheltered settings cannot protect their health. The resources set out in HB 5019 will help people get out of the elements, and into shelters and homes. This will result in fewer emergency room visits and better health outcomes for everyone.

OHSU is grateful to legislative leaders for acting quickly to move this legislation forward.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hanna at hannaju@ohsu.edu.