



March 20, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee –

On behalf of America's Service Commissions (ASC), I write in support of SB 2 – legislation that would incentivize home sharing as a means to address the affordable housing crisis in Oregon. ASC serves as the national association of the 52 state and territorial service commissions, including OregonServes, the state service commission in Oregon.

Each year, hundreds of AmeriCorps members in Oregon dedicate a year of their lives to addressing community needs. Members receive a modest living allowance and at the completion of their term of service, an education award that can be used for future higher education expenses. In recent years, the increasing cost of housing has made it extremely difficult for AmeriCorps members to find safe, affordable housing during their term of service.

In fact, a 2021 survey noted that 60% of AmeriCorps programs in Oregon reported that most or all of their members struggle to find safe, affordable housing. Further, two-thirds of AmeriCorps programs in the same survey indicated that potential out-of-state recruits have declined an offer of a member position due to their inability to identify an affordable housing option for their term of service.

ASC firmly believes that home sharing could be an integral part of solving the affordable housing challenge for AmeriCorps members as well as other community members. During the past year, we have partnered with OregonServes and our state commission partners in Colorado and Washington to match AmeriCorps members with AmeriCorps alumni in home sharing agreements. To date, 138 AmeriCorps members and 19 alumni have indicated interest in a home sharing relationship via our pilot. We believe these numbers will continue to grow, especially if SB 2 would further incentivize home sharing for homeowners.

I urge the committee to support SB 2. AmeriCorps members that are committing a year of their life to service should be able to identify safe and affordable housing options, and this legislation would make strides in ensuring that becomes a reality.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaira B. Esgate".

Kaira Esgate
Chief Executive Officer