

Submitter: Helen Higgins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3414

Good Morning, my name is Helen Higgins, I am the CEO for the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis. I am here to ask you to please add the Housing Production Resource Center into HB 3414 that was originally in HB2981

In my community of Corvallis, we are in crisis of available employees to fill critical jobs. One of the significant contributors to recruiting and retaining employees is our lack of housing. Lack means – 34 available units on the MLS at the end of February in a community of 60,000 people, and a rental vacancy rate of 1-2%.

One of the issues we've identified locally is the need for Developers and builders to have a navigator inside our City planning and Public Works Dept. to assist with the facilitation and timely approval of permits.

I am part of a group of large employers advocating for this type of resource locally and this would be very beneficial at a State level to address one of the key operational hurdles that slows down the process and increases costs – and the frustration!

To move quickly and efficiently to add capacity we need the resources and technical expertise that the Housing Production Resource Center will provide to planning departments and developers across the state.

This would be a great tool to add to our toolkit to meet the State's inventory goals.