

Submitter: Trisha Patterson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5005

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking testimony on the important issue of directing funds to the LIFT programs and PSH programs. These investments support Governor Kotek's ambitious housing production goals and are vital components of the OHCS 2023 Legislative Agenda. I support fully funding these programs. As an Oregonian, and a current student, I have experienced first hand the increasing squeeze in housing choice and affordability in Oregon. Funding affordable housing is just one component to solving the housing shortage. While I may never benefit directly from LIFT programs, I know that these programs keep my neighbors housed, and open up opportunity for those currently struggling with their housing. Housing is fundamental to community wellbeing. LIFT programs offer homeownership opportunities where that opportunity is increasingly scarce, particularly for communities of color and historically under-resourced communities. PSH programs are a proven model for permanently housing the most vulnerable populations in our communities, including those that have experienced chronic homelessness. Taken together, the level of investment this bill provides is needed by communities across Oregon, and is exceedingly appropriate for the housing shortage we currently face.

Please vote yes on this bill, and fully fund these programs.

Thank you,
Trisha Patterson
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Oregon State University