



April 4, 2023

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street NW
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2987A

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Community Action Partnership (CAPO), which represents a network of 17 Oregon community action agencies and a special purpose organization, the Oregon Human Development Corporation. Our organizations plan, implement, and deliver anti-poverty programs across all of Oregon's 36 counties, including homeless shelters, food banks, and Head Start. Our network is responsible for implementing state- and federally-funded weatherization programs (e.g. ECHO, WAP).

We are writing to express our support for HB 2987 as amended. The 15% cap on administrative and program delivery costs was a major concern for us. Outreach, intake, home assessments, and construction management are expensive. Additionally, construction-related fields have experienced significant cost increases in recent years. Retaining qualified staff has also become more expensive. With this fix, we will be better able to deliver healthy home projects that make improvements in the lives of low-income families.

In 2022, our network provided around 1000 households with comprehensive no-cost weatherization services. This commonly includes measures like improving insulation, installing heat pumps, and replacing refrigerators. Federal and state funds are restricted to interventions that are cost-effective when comparing measure costs to energy savings at current prices. Unfortunately, this often leaves us recognizing but not being able to act on issues that, when addressed, could substantially improve the health and well-being of inhabitants. Some of us have been successful at addressing such issues by leveraging other funds, for instance from Coordinated Care Organizations. We hope the Healthy Homes Program, as currently being designed by OHA, will become another resource we can deploy to help low-income families.

In closing, we would ask you to support HB 2987 as amended.

Thank you for your consideration,



Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

B. Springer

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