



February 12, 2025

The Honorable Khanh Pham
Oregon State Senator
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Housing and Development Committee (SB 949)

Chair Pham and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee,

My name is Trent Aldridge and I have the privilege of serving as CEO of Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI). I am writing to express our strong support for SB 949, legislation aimed at developing affordable, mixed-use housing in the Portland metropolitan area. For 44 years, SEI has been a pillar of the North and Northeast Portland communities, dedicated to providing comprehensive services and opportunities that empower youth and families to realize their full potential. Our work spans education, mentorship, family support, and community development, and we have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that stable, affordable housing has on individual and community well-being.

Recognizing the critical link between housing and opportunity, SEI expanded its focus in 2019 to include affordable housing development. We understand that access to safe, affordable housing is a fundamental human right and a crucial foundation for success in all other areas of life. Since then, we have actively engaged in this space, co-developing three affordable housing projects. We currently have two additional projects under construction, demonstrating our commitment to tangible solutions to the housing crisis. This experience has provided us with invaluable insights into the complexities and challenges of affordable housing development, and we are eager to support the successful implementation of SB 949.

SB 949's focus on integrating residential units with community services and commercial spaces aligns perfectly with SEI's holistic approach to community development. We believe that this integrated model is essential for creating thriving communities where individuals and families can flourish. The bill's prioritization of the needs of families and individuals facing housing insecurity in North and Northeast Portland resonates deeply with SEI's mission and the populations we serve. We have seen the devastating effects of displacement and lack of affordable housing in these communities, and we believe that SB 949 offers a critical pathway to addressing this urgent need.

SEI stands ready to partner with the Housing and Community Services Department and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of SB 949. We believe that our deep roots in the community, our experience in affordable housing development, and our unwavering commitment to empowering individuals and families make us a valuable asset in this effort.

We urge you to support SB 949 and help create a more equitable and sustainable future for our community.

Sincerely,