



February 12, 2025

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2968

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. Since 1988, CASA has been working with local communities to create housing for farmworkers, veterans and rural families. We have developed community facilities including HeadStart centers and medical and dental facilities. We also offer the largest asset-building program (Individual Development Accounts or IDAs) in the state helping more than 5000 people to buy a home, start or expand a business, gain post-secondary education and other asset classes. Finally, we help residents in manufactured home communities to purchase and own their communities as resident-owned co-ops (ROCs).

CASA of Oregon has been providing homeownership services since our inception. We began with a lease-to-own program for farmworkers building 13 homes. Then we provided down payment assistance for farmworkers for five years serving 30+ families. And we have settled into our two existing homeownership programs which are:

- our IDA program, which has seen 43 of our partner organizations provide \$13 million to 1600 low and moderate income folks to become first-time homebuyers.
- We have created 28 ROCs serving approximately 2000 homeowners

Over the last few years, the legislature has convened two “*Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership*” task forces. Both of these task forces have made multiple recommendation which the legislature has yet to fully adopt. HB 2968 is key to addressing many of the recommendations because it begins the process of establishing accountability measures for the state. Because as they say, “*what doesn’t get measured, doesn’t get done*”. Here is a chance to make sure we measure what we are doing so we can make sure it gets done.

CASA urges you to pass HB 2968. Thank you for your service to this great state.

Sincerely,

Peter Hainley
Executive Director