

Submitter: Susan Cooper
On Behalf Of: West Tuality Habitat for Humanity
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2698

February 12, 2025
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Re: Support for HB 2698

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

West Tuality Habitat for Humanity urges your support of HB 2698, which establishes a statewide goal for homeownership. Homeownership is a priority for the majority of Oregonians. It is a time-tested means of building generational wealth and a reliable way to improve racial and economic equity. As Oregon strives to significantly increase housing production, a statewide homeownership goal will keep housing and homeownership top of mind for decision-makers at all levels of government. As a member of West Tuality Habitat for Humanity's board of directors, I would like to encourage you to work toward this goal.

According to Census data, Oregon's homeownership rate hovers near 64 percent, ranking Oregon 43rd in the nation. We can do better. While there are many things Oregon can do to increase homeownership and begin to close existing homeownership gaps, one thing we can do immediately is establish a statewide homeownership goal in statute. As our state works to increase housing supply at a variety of income levels, HB 2698 will help to center Oregonians' aspirations to plant roots in their local communities and begin to enjoy the many benefits of homeownership. Thank you for your consideration and service,

Susan Cooper, West Tuality Habitat for Humanity