

February 13, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Pham and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 58. I regret that I am unable to testify in person, but appreciate the opportunity to provide this written comment. I am a Clackamas County Commissioner and Registered Nurse, but am supporting SB 58 as an individual Oregonian, not in my professional capacities.

Both as a County Commissioner and nurse, I see Oregon's need for more affordable housing every day. SB 58 would create a pilot program to expand the supply of affordable housing at a pace unattainable by conventional methods. Essentially, the bill would create a new program where individual homeowners could receive a small, one-time grant to make minor modifications to their home for the purpose of creating an internal Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) that could then be rented.

I've heard from many caring constituents who want to be part of the housing solution. They may be older adults who want to keep living in their home, but need a little extra income in retirement to make that possible or families who have become empty nesters and have a spare room. Under SB 58, they could modify their home to create an ADU, with privacy and security for both the renter and homeowner—making a new dwelling unit at a fraction of the cost and time of new construction. SB 58 has built-in precautions to ensure grant funds are used as intended, that ADUs will not be rented as short-term vacation rentals, and that homeowners' property tax assessments will not increase as a result of a home modification.

I appreciate your consideration of this measure. Senator Hayden and I are eager to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Ben West, MSN, BSN, RN
Clackamas County Commissioner