

Submitter: Traci Manning

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB949

February 14, 2025

Re: Support for Mixed Used Housing in Portland Metro Area (SB 949)

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development?

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 949, which directs the Housing and Community Services Department to establish a project to develop affordable housing that integrates residential units with community spaces and services in the Portland metropolitan area.

Housing Development Center is a statewide nonprofit that for 30+ years has worked with community-based nonprofits throughout Oregon to build and maintain affordable homes for our neighbors. What we know from that experience is that in order for families to thrive they first need stable housing, but they also need to live in community, and to have access to the resources and opportunities that a health community provides.

Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) has been providing excellent services to marginalized youth and families in the Portland Metropolitan Area for 44 years. It is the goal of SEI to provide much more than “sticks and bricks.” SEI is seeking to develop optimal living experiences for families while working together to build real community in every space that it develops. SEI sees the need for mixed use affordable housing developments in our community and is seeking to meet that need so that marginalized and displaced children and families can enjoy the benefits of living in proximity to practical functions that enhance their living experiences. Current tax credit and funding options are not sufficient to develop the type of optimal living experiences that this community deserves. And I support this effort to place value on the lives of marginalized and displaced community members who will benefit from enhancing current affordable housing models.

This bill and this funding is a necessary investment into the lives of the prospective families who will live in this project, and others like it. This bill and this funding says to our marginalized community members that, “you deserve the very best, and not just what is minimally good enough.” This bill and this funding is a step in the right direction that acknowledges that “homelessness is a housing problem”, and that by creating opportunities to develop housing that is both optimal and affordable, we are

taking real steps to address the housing problem that we see everyday.

For the above reasons, we urge you to support this request for funding to develop mixed use housing in partnership with Self Enhancement, Inc. by passing SB 949. Our most vulnerable and displaced families deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford. Organizations like SEI that are working to create optimal living experiences cannot continue to deliver this reality without your support. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Traci Manning

Executive Director, Housing Development Center