



To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

RE: Support for HB 3644

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

My name is Katie O'Brien, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Rose Haven to urge your strong support for House Bill 3644, which implements the statewide shelter system for Oregonians who have been forced to live outside.

There is a critical need for stabilization of the shelter network. Shelters like Rose Haven serve as the nation's last and final safety net for the most vulnerable, serving as first responders amidst a rising crisis of homelessness in our country.

HB 3644 will provide greater stability to our response to homelessness, by transitioning the state away from one-time emergency response funding towards an ongoing and outcomes-based shelter and rehousing program which will continue to support people experiencing homelessness accessing the services they need to transition into permanent housing. With the passage of HB 3644, our state will transition from addressing homelessness through scattered emergency responses, to developing and refining a regionally coordinated shelter and rehousing system.

I would like to specifically note and appreciate the bill's inclusion of Day Center providers in the list of partners invited to coordinate local regional planning. Rose Haven serves more than 4,000 women, children, trans and non-binary people annually who are experiencing homelessness. Day Centers like ours provide essential services to stabilize people and provide life-saving referrals. We are the wrap-around services essential to moving people out of homelessness and into health and stability.

Through Governor Kotek's emergency response addressing unsheltered homelessness, and partnership with the Legislature to fund increased shelter, rehousing, and prevention services, Oregon is projected to support over 4,800 shelter beds, rehouse 3,300 households, and prevent another 24,000 households from experiencing homelessness by June 30, 2025.

HB 3644 provides critical stabilization for the statewide shelter system—that has successfully rehoused and stabilized thousands of Oregonians. We urge your strong support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie O'Brien, Executive Director, Rose Haven