



February 26, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the statewide shelter funding framework contained within HB 3644. We write today to share our strong support of the proposal. We appreciate the efforts to establish a programmatic approach to funding shelter in Oregon to help ensure existing 24/7 shelter beds across the state can stay open. The ongoing partnership between the state, counties, and cities is crucial to ensuring every person has a safe place to sleep, heal and connect with needed services, and ultimately housing.

We recognize this shelter funding framework was negotiated over many months by a large table of stakeholders from around the state. We appreciate the immense amount of work that has gone into developing this programmatic approach. At the same time, putting this framework in place requires allocating enough funding to implement. To this end, we are grateful for the \$218 million proposed in Governor Kotek's recommended budget to ensure that shelters around the state currently receiving state support will continue to operate.

The City of Portland's Safe Rest Villages and Temporary Alternative Shelter Site have received a total of \$25.8 M in vital state operational dollars over the last two years. Those resources, coupled with significant city and county investments, allow us to house over 1,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors each night. And those investments are yielding results with 31% of participants exiting into permanent housing and another 14% leaving for temporary housing, other shelters, or institutional situations.

While these investments are essential, they are not enough. The number of people sleeping outside far outnumbers the number of beds available for them in Portland. It is for this reason that we ask that the legislature consider Governor Kotek's proposed \$218 million as the floor for state shelter investment, not the ceiling.

Moreover, we also ask that the Legislature consider the full spectrum of shelter needs in our communities when contemplating additional shelter investments, above and beyond those invested through this bill. While 24/7 shelter with wrap-around services is the gold standard, other options – including day and night shelters – can provide a meaningful bridge. Together, we can and will continue

to develop the full suite of options that are needed to support people experiencing homelessness across Oregon.

Thank you again for the ongoing partnership. We urge your support for HB 3644.



Keith Wilson
Mayor



Elana Pirtle Guiney
Council President
District 2

Tiffany Koyama Lane

Tiffany Koyama Lane
Council Vice President
District 3



Candace Avalos
City Councilor
District 1



Jamie Dunphy
City Councilor
District 1



Loretta Smith
City Councilor
District 1



Sameer Kanal
City Councilor
District 2



Dan Ryan
City Councilor
District 2



Angelita Morillo
City Councilor
District 3



Steve Novick
City Councilor
District 3



Olivia Clark
City Councilor
District 4



Mitch Green
City Councilor
District 4



Eric Zimmerman
City Councilor
District 4