



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

February 27, 2025

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Chair Representative Pam Marsh
Vice-Chair Representative Tom Andersen
Vice-Chair Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson

Re: Support for House Bill 3644

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee On Housing and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3644, which requires the Housing and Community Services Department to establish a statewide shelter program with regional coordinators administering funding to shelter providers.

Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) is a social service agency with over five decades of experience in providing housing stabilization services to low and very low-income older adults, aged 55 and over, experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Multnomah County.

Although NWPP supports House Bill 3634, there are several key considerations that we would like to highlight that address Section 1(3b) – “Foster equity in outcomes for those disproportionately impacted by structural inequities in homelessness and the homelessness response system”. With housing precarity and homelessness still rising for older adults we urge you to consider the following:

1. Establishing and operating senior-specific shelters that would be accessible beyond minimum compliance and would focus on the unique needs of older adults, including those with disabilities;
2. Establishing and operating gender-specific senior motel congregate conversions, rather than co-ed motel congregate, which create additional insecurities for older women, a particularly vulnerable population; and,



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3. Providing locations and accompanying services that enable older adults in shelters to keep their belongings in a safe and secure space, understanding that shelter services often require moving between evening and day shelters and shelter users are often at risk of having their belongings compromised. Shuttling between facilities while carrying items is particularly difficult for older adults and people with disabilities.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Yoni Kahn (yonik@nwproject.org) and/or Alan DeLaTorre (aland@nwproject.org).

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