



MULTIFAMILY NW
The Association Promoting Quality Rental Housing

Oregon Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for rental housing provisions in Gov. Kotek’s budget

March 11, 2025

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Multifamily NW is the largest association of housing providers in the state, representing nearly 300,000 units and every profession related to the industry — from property managers and owners to landscapers, maintenance professionals and screening companies. Our top priority is to collaborate with public sector leaders to identify and implement proven solutions to Oregon’s ongoing housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for Governor Kotek’s budget proposal, particularly the allocation of \$105.2 million in rental assistance and the request for \$1.5 million to support the in-person Rent Well curriculum. These proposed investments are critical to addressing Oregon’s ongoing housing affordability crisis and to ensuring that tenants across our state have the tools and support they need to maintain stable housing.

Governor Kotek’s budget reflects a thoughtful and strategic approach to meeting the needs of Oregon’s most vulnerable renters and the people that provide their housing. The proposed \$105.2 million in rental assistance will play a pivotal role in helping low-income tenants who are at risk of eviction or homelessness. This funding is essential to preventing the displacement of families and individuals, particularly in light of the continuing economic uncertainty and the high demand for affordable housing in Oregon. These investments provide stability and security for tenants while allowing housing providers to continue operating within a challenging environment.

Additionally, we would like to emphasize our strong support for the \$1.5 million requested for the in-person Rent Well curriculum. Rent Well is an invaluable tool that helps tenants gain the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain successful tenancies. By providing critical education on budgeting, communication with housing providers, and tenant rights and responsibilities, the Rent Well program empowers individuals and families to avoid housing instability and better navigate the rental process. These funds would allow for the continuation and expansion of this essential program, ensuring that more tenants across Oregon have access to this resource.

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We believe that Governor Kotek's budget strikes an important balance by addressing the immediate needs for rental assistance while investing in long-term solutions that promote tenant success and prevent future housing instability. We strongly urge the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to prioritize these investments in the final budget and ensure that funding is allocated to support rental assistance and the Rent Well curriculum.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to address Oregon's housing challenges and ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Clay
Manager of Government and Public Affairs