

Testimony in Support of HB 3837

Submitted by Larry Morgan
Chief of Staff, City of Gresham

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Larry Morgan, and I serve as the Chief of Staff for the City of Gresham. I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 3837, which proposes targeted funding to Oregon cities and federally recognized tribes with high poverty rates to develop local poverty reduction plans. Gresham is Oregon's fourth-largest city and home to a dynamic, culturally rich community. Yet, many of our residents—particularly in East Multnomah County—face persistent poverty, economic instability, and barriers to opportunity. Our city has taken a proactive approach to these challenges, including youth violence prevention efforts, recreation-based engagement, housing partnerships, and workforce development programs. But to address poverty at its roots, we must move beyond short-term solutions and invest in comprehensive, coordinated strategies. HB 3837 provides the framework and funding to do just that.

This bill acknowledges that poverty is complex and requires local solutions built on data, collaboration, and community input. It supports inclusive planning processes that involve schools, nonprofits, faith leaders, businesses, philanthropic partners, and, most importantly, those directly affected by poverty. Gresham already has many of these relationships in place, and we are ready to build a formalized poverty reduction plan that is measurable, community-informed, and rooted in best practices.

The population-based grant structure allows cities like Gresham to receive funding to support plan development. This funding would help us build capacity, deepen partnerships, identify economic gaps, and establish clear performance metrics, all critical components in crafting an actionable strategy to reduce poverty locally.

HB 3837 is a smart investment that empowers communities to take ownership of their poverty challenges and solutions. I urge your support of this legislation and thank you for recognizing the importance of equity-driven, locally led planning efforts across our state.

Sincerely,



Larry Morgan
Chief of Staff
City of Gresham

