

Submitter: David Groff  
On Behalf Of: The Sacred Organizing Coalition of Leaven  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Transportation and Economic Development  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5011

My name is David Groff. I live at 4205 SE Ramona Street in Portland and am testifying on behalf of the Sacred Organizing Coalition of Leaven, Land, and Housing.

For more than thirty years I have volunteered for Operation Nightwatch, a forty-four-year old nonprofit that serves the unhoused and other poor residents of downtown Portland. Over that period, I have seen the numbers of unhoused people grow and their desperation increase. As we know, there are many paths into homelessness but underlying all of them is our dysfunctional housing market and lack of sufficient affordable places for people to live.

The governor's budget seeks to continue and enhance efforts to provide more housing, support rent-burdened Oregonians, and prevent more of them from sliding into homelessness. HB5011 funds that effort. I realize that funding is very tight this year, but we can't let up in the effort to address our housing and homelessness challenges. I urge you to pass this bill and assure that we continue to do all we can to address and resolve what many Oregonians regard as the state's number one problem.