



**OREGON HOUSING *and*  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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**Re: Testimony in Support of POP 551 [HB 5041] - OYA Housing and Reentry Coordinator**

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, Members of the Subcommittee on Public Safety,

I am writing to you today on behalf of OHCS in support of Policy Option Package (POP) 551 [HB 5041]. OHCS strongly supports POP 551 in the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) budget, which funds a Housing and Reentry Coordinator to assist youth transitioning out of OYA custody.

Stable housing is a critical factor in preventing homelessness and reducing recidivism for justice-involved youth, and this investment aligns with OHCS's mission to expand housing stability and support vulnerable populations across Oregon.

Youth leaving the justice system face significant barriers to securing safe and stable housing, often due to a lack of rental history, financial resources, or family support. Without targeted interventions, these challenges frequently result in housing instability, homelessness, and incarceration. By funding a dedicated Housing and Reentry Coordinator and providing some rental assistance dollars, POP 551 directly addresses this gap by ensuring that young Oregonians have the necessary support to secure housing and successfully reintegrate into their communities.

We urge the legislature to approve POP 551, in recognition of the fact that housing stability is fundamental to successful reentry and community safety. This investment will not only improve individual outcomes for youth exiting OYA, but it can also contribute to reducing long-term costs associated with homelessness, emergency services, and recidivism.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,

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