

Submitter: Malynda Pittman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5011

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Economic Development,

My name is Malynda Pittman, and I serve as the Community Manager for  
Cornerstone Apartments and Courtney Place Veterans Housing. With six years of  
experience in community management, including four years dedicated to managing  
affordable housing communities, I am reaching out to advocate for the full funding of  
the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) request for \$500 million.  
This funding is essential to continue the development of much-needed affordable  
housing across Oregon. In my role, I witness firsthand the pressing demand for  
affordable housing in our state. Each day, I add more residents to our waitlist, and at  
Cornerstone, that list has now surpassed 600 people. Unfortunately, I regularly have  
to inform individuals that we have no available units and that the wait for housing is  
two years or longer.

I meet with people trying to escape domestic violence, individuals with housing  
vouchers they cannot use because we have no available units, and homeless  
residents who, despite their desperate need, are simply added to our waitlist. This is  
not an isolated situation—many affordable housing communities across Oregon face  
similar challenges, with waitlists extending two years or more.

Additionally, I am unable to accommodate veterans at our 34-unit Veterans  
Community due to lack of space. In Oregon, 7.7% of veterans live in poverty and  
require affordable housing, and this issue affects 12.2% of all Oregon residents.  
These are our neighbors, our fellow Oregonians, who need our support.

I urge you to make funding for OHCS a top priority. As someone who works directly  
with Oregon's residents daily, I can tell you that the need for affordable housing is  
urgent. It is heartbreaking to have to turn away homeless families and individuals  
who are in desperate need of housing.

Please take action to ensure that funding for affordable housing continues to be a  
priority for Oregon. Our residents deserve better, and they need our support now  
more than ever.

Sincerely,

Malynda Pittman

Community Manager, Cornerstone Apartments & Courtney Place Veterans Housing