



3 April 2025

## **Housing Authorities of Oregon support HB 2467**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen & Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Blakely and I am the Assistant Housing Administrator and Director of Development and Strategy for the Salem Housing Authority. I am here today on behalf of the Housing Authorities of Oregon to express strong support for HB 2467.

Collectively, the Housing Authorities of Oregon are the largest providers of affordable housing in the state. There are 22 public housing authorities (PHAs) that serve all 36 counties. Our goal is to provide a safe, affordable place for Oregonians with low incomes to call home.

Housing Authorities across the state, including the Salem Housing Authority, have stepped up to address homelessness by developing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)—often with limited or no dedicated funding. This model requires close collaboration between landlords and social service providers to bring on-site supportive services to residents with significant needs. We prioritize those with the greatest vulnerabilities, often as a condition of our funding sources. This is our mission, and we are committed to it.

However, the reality we face is more challenging than ever. Many individuals are arriving with higher levels of mental health acuity and complex needs—some stabilize over time, but others remain in crisis despite extensive interventions.

Let me share an example.

One resident has required nearly two years of intensive intervention. We have implemented eight eviction prevention plans, multiple service interventions, medical referrals, and even a two-party hold with our service providers. Despite our best efforts, his volatility demands significant management oversight. Staff and residents fear for their safety due to his ongoing crisis.

Recently, after months of work, he begrudgingly agreed to seek a higher level of treatment. Our staff personally transported him to the Psychiatric Crisis Center—yet, by the time they returned to the property, he was already back, having self-medicated with alcohol and drugs along the way.

Now, his unit has been deemed uninhabitable by Code and Compliance, yet we cannot physically remove him—and law enforcement considers it a civil matter.

This is an impossible situation.



**HAO** advocates for policies and resources that create safe, stable housing options for all Oregonians [housingauthoritiesoforegon.com](https://housingauthoritiesoforegon.com)

Landlords are not mental health professionals. We do not have the training, resources, or authority to effectively support individuals in crisis who pose serious risks to themselves and others. Without institutional interventions, we are left with only one option—eviction—forcing individuals back onto the streets, exactly what we have been trying to prevent.

Meanwhile, our staff are burned out, we struggle to recruit workers, and these projects are financially unsustainable.

We need help.

By clarifying commitment standards and facilitating earlier interventions, HB 2467 will improve housing stability, protect residents, and ensure that people receive the treatment they need—before it's too late.

Housing should be protected while individuals seek care. This is the only humane solution.

Thank you for your time, and I urge your support for this critical bill.