



Department of Housing Services



April 16, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 5505 and housing investments

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

Here in Washington County, we are committed to the solutions that will end homelessness, one family at a time. We braid together interventions across systems to create a comprehensive system of care, which includes proven programs like the state permanent supportive housing program. We need more investment to open doors to opportunity for community members experiencing homelessness. **We urge your support of HB 5505 and bond investments to construct new housing – particularly permanent supportive housing.**

The Homeless Solutions Advisory Council serves as Washington County's Continuum of Care Board and provides guidance on the county's homeless services system of care, encouraging collaborative partnerships across a wide array of systems to build a Washington County where the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. We are health care experts, behavioral health system leaders, homeless services practitioners, education professionals, public safety experts, and more. We ask for your partnership in support of HB 5505.

Washington County is expanding supportive housing options, including more than \$40 million invested in the capital construction of transitional supportive housing. With local resources, we're proud to invest in housing. But it's not enough. We need **more permanent supportive housing (PSH)**. HB 5505 invests \$80.4 million in PSH. Additional investments in HB 5011 (POPs 513, 515, and 516) will support the rental assistance and wrap around services necessary to help people experiencing chronic homelessness transition to housing stability.

With supportive services, long term rental assistance, and a home, we know our communities can thrive. We appreciate the legislature's commitment to housing solutions, and we urge ongoing investments.

Sincerely,
Kim Marshall, Chair
Drew Williamson, Vice Chair
Members of the Washington County Homeless Solutions Advisory Council