

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the committee.

My name is Seth Johnstone, and I work at Basic Rights Oregon. I am here representing our organization, specifically focused on the LGBTQIA2S+ community support. As you craft the state budget, we urge you to make investments that will stabilize our communities in Oregon.

These investments should include funding:

Housing support in the form of Rental Assistance and eviction prevention in HB5011, specifically OHCS POP's 504 and 505 ask of \$173.2M. Basic Rights Oregon's mission is to support LGBTQ+ individuals in the state in achieving lived equality and we see over-representation of LGBTQIA2S+ people experiencing houselessness. State funds are needed to be replenished for us to continue to work on the eviction crisis. The community based organizations that have set up funding programs for housing support and eviction prevention have been working to meet community need and need to continue.

I am weekly on the phone with individuals seeking housing funds or not sure where to turn after discrimination has happened that has impacted their housing. Connecting people to eviction prevention services is a proven approach to ensure people can stay housed and prevent the cascade of negative consequences when families are pushed onto the streets. The eviction interventions we've created are making a difference for thousands of Oregonians and we must continue to invest.

Many individuals in our community are facing extreme rent hikes that cause inability to cover rent, are being let go from employment due to LGBTQ+ discrimination and waiting for BOLI investigations sitting in a department that has been underfunded that needs to be funded this session as these folks are impacted in the meantime via HB5015. If let go from employment due to discrimination, awaiting delayed investigations at BOLI, and without rent support in the meantime- it places paycheck to paycheck employees in dire situations in need of often one-time support to keep them from ending up on the streets where they'll face increased risk factors that will cost the state and impact folks quality of life.

This heavily impacts LGBTQ+ renters also experiencing racial discrimination who encounter discriminatory barriers to securing and keeping housing and elderly Oregonians, who are the fastest-growing group losing their housing.

Supporting these bills would make a massive difference in the housing and economic stability of the LGBTQ + community and state at large.

Our organization is also a member of the Fair Shot Coalition so we are here requesting support of the Fair shot coalition agenda asks which supports racial, gender and economic justice:

- Food for All Oregonians, SB 611, \$7.7M
- Farmworker Disaster Relief, HB 3193 \$10M
- Behavioral Health Workers Investments, HB 2024, 2203, \$45M+
- Home and Community Based Care standards boards, HB 3838
- Farmworker standards boards, HB 2548
- Indigenous Language Justice, HB 2976, \$1.5M and

The budget framework shows Oregon can maintain critical programs and even build on them. Delaying investing in vital services has a compounding negative impact on local economies and health outcomes. Smart investments now prevent costly crises later. The 2025 Fair Shot Agenda prioritizes community-led initiatives addressing real, immediate needs. They were developed by the people most impacted and offer proven, cost-effective approaches to our state's challenges.

Thank you.