



May 2, 2025

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
Oregon Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 684

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you on behalf of Home Forward in support of SB 684-1. This bill creates a Construction Revolving Loan Fund to provide low-interest short-term loans for the construction of mixed-income rental housing.

Home Forward is the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for Multnomah County and the largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. We serve approximately 18,000 low-income households by providing affordable housing, administering rent assistance, and providing supportive services. We own over 7,200 affordable homes throughout Multnomah County and provide households with services which range from housing stability supports to health and wellness. Meanwhile, we fund rent assistance for over 12,000 households each month. Home Forward's mission is to create a better community by providing housing stability through affordable housing development, housing choice expansion, services that support quality of life, and advocacy to improve local and national housing systems.

We know that Oregon is facing a housing supply shortage with more than 500,000 housing units needed of all types and at all income levels. As a state, we have taken bold steps to increase housing production and close this gap. SB 684 is another innovative effort to spur production. Through the creation of a Construction Revolving Loan fund with a one-time investment, we are mitigating the escalating costs faced by developers and helping to fill financing gaps that can stall development. In addition, SB 684 leverages and strengthens private and public partnerships that are critical to addressing the housing needs of households above 80% of area median income, meanwhile assuring long term affordability for those with lower incomes. By incentivizing the creation of mixed-income housing, this bill seeks to create vibrant and diverse communities while creating jobs and boosting local economies.

I urge you to advance this smart and sustainable option to support the creation of mixed-income rental housing. Thank you for the opportunity to offer support. Please contact me at (503) 348-1196 or [christina.dirks@homeforward.org](mailto:christina.dirks@homeforward.org) regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Christina Dirks  
Director of Policy and Planning