



Department of Housing Services



May 8, 2025

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

Re: Support for SB 5531 and investments to preserve affordable housing

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 investments in housing preservation to stop us from moving backwards. **We urge your support of SB 5531 and resources to keep people in affordable homes by preventing affordable housing from closing or converting to market-rate.**

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.

Our community has seen firsthand the potential impacts of affordable housing converting to market-rate with Woodspring Apartments. Thanks to state investments and the work of our Housing Authority, that impact didn't materialize into reality. The over 170 seniors that call Woodspring home remain in affordable housing because of lottery bond investments. But the next Woodspring is around the corner; over 8,600 affordable homes across the state are at risk in the next decade. You have the opportunity to support more Oregonians in remaining stability housed with affordable rents. SB 5531 includes over \$193 million to preserve affordable housing across the state.

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