



9 May 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon Legislature

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

RE: Senate Bill 5531

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I serve as the Executive Director of the **Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA)** in Salem. We serve low-income residents across Marion, Polk, and nine additional counties in Oregon. Each year, we provide more than \$80 million in services and direct client assistance for housing, homelessness, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs to more than 60,000 Oregonians experiencing poverty. I also serve as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, sit on the Housing Committee of the Racial Justice Council, was a member of the House Bill 2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities, and most recently Chaired the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge.

I am writing to express my strong support of Senate Bill 5531, particularly its investments that expand access to child care, preserve affordable housing, and enables new housing development through critical infrastructure funding.

As one of the largest human services providers in the region, we see daily how the lack of affordable housing and child care deepens cycles of poverty, instability and displacement. SB 5531 represents a powerful investment in Oregon's future and includes vital provisions such as:

- \$185 million for housing preservation, including \$160 million for rental housing and \$25 million for manufactured home parks. Many properties in our region are at risk of foreclosure of face unsustainable operating deficits. Preserving these homes will protect families and help prevent homelessness.
- \$100 million for the Housing Infrastructure Fund, recognizing that gaps in sewer, water and transportation infrastructure are among the most significant barriers to affordable housing production. These funds will directly support local governments and nonprofits move forward with ready-to-build housing projects.
- \$30 million for the Child Care Infrastructure Fund, addressing one of the most significant obstacles to workforce participation for families, especially in single-parent households and those reentering the workforce. Affordable, accessible child care is foundational to family stability and economic mobility.

At MWVCAA, we see firsthand how stable housing, reliable child care, and livable communities transform lives. At a time when our communities are navigating the challenges of housing instability and economic uncertainty, SB 5531 offers a fiscally responsible and targeted path forward that meets urgent needs and advances equity across Oregon.

For these reasons, we urge you to support this bill and ask that you ensure these investments reach the individuals and families in our communities who need them most.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director