



February 13, 2026

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Capital Construction

SB 5702 – Support Article XI-Q Bonds for Preservation

Chair Girod, Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of New Narrative, I write in strong support of SB 5702, the use of Article XI-Q Bonds (GO Bonds) to preserve housing. This investment is important to stabilize and preserve Oregon’s existing affordable housing.

The people New Narrative serves are among the most vulnerable Oregonians. Many live with severe and persistent mental illness and have experienced chronic homelessness, hospitalization, or long institutional stays. For them, housing is not simply shelter. It is the foundation that allows treatment, medication management, peer support, and recovery to work. It is healthcare.

When affordable housing destabilizes, our participants do not simply move to another apartment. Housing instability is a clinical risk factor. Displacement can trigger psychiatric crisis, emergency room visits, incarceration, or returns to homelessness or the Oregon State Hospital. In rural communities, a single foreclosure can permanently reduce safe housing options for people with complex needs.

Preservation is also fiscally responsible. It is far more cost-effective than replacing lost units and far less expensive than the public costs of crisis services when housing fails.

We cannot save every property, but we must act where intervention can realistically protect tenants and restore long-term stability. Affordable housing is essential infrastructure for Oregon’s behavioral health system.

New Narrative urges your support.

Sincerely,

Julie Ibrahim, LPC
CEO