

April 11, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Attention: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee

RE: Support for HB 5005 / Permanent Supportive Housing

Kaiser Permanente Northwest is an integrated health care delivery system that provides care to over 620,000 members in Oregon and Southwest Washington. As a non-profit health plan, our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve.

We know that without a safe, stable place to live, our communities cannot be healthy. The need for housing consistently ranks among the top social needs for our patients. Because stable housing is such a key determinant of health, housing has become a major area of investment for Kaiser Permanente. Our regional commitments through the end of 2020 add up to nearly \$8 million of investment in housing development and services, with a focus on our most vulnerable communities.

Recent examples include our partnership in Lane County with PeaceHealth and ShelterCare to provide transitional housing for people with severe mental illness or who are medically fragile; and partnering with other health care organizations to invest over \$21 million toward Central City Concern's affordable and supportive housing in Portland.

We know that the solution to Oregon's affordable housing and homelessness crisis lies in partnerships among government, nonprofits, and the business community. No one sector alone can solve this crisis; but working together, we can ensure that vulnerable Oregonians have a safe, healthy place to call home.

Affordable housing is a vital component of our public infrastructure, and a worthy investment of the State's capital construction bonding capacity.

We urge you to support the Governor's request for \$50 million in general obligation bonds for permanent supportive housing.

This proven housing model includes ongoing wrap-around services to ensure that residents will be stable and healthy in their housing. Kaiser Permanente is proud to be a partner helping to fund supportive housing for medically fragile Oregonians. We urge the Legislature to step up this session with a strong State investment in this proven housing solution.

Thank you so much for your consideration, and for your service to our State.

Sincerely,

Dan Field
Executive Director, Community Benefit & External Affairs