



4110 SE Hawthorne Boulevard #503 | Portland, Oregon 97214
Admin (503)222-6507 | Access Line (503)222-6222
We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

Members of the Joint Sub-Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178
Salem OR 97301

June 13, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Gomberg, Manning, and members of the Joint Sub-committee:

As Executive Director of Raphael House of Portland, am writing in support of HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments, which would allow duplexes, tri-plexes, quads, and cottage clusters in cities of a certain size. Passage of this bill will increase the diversity of affordable middle housing options in neighborhoods that have long been exclusive.

For more than 40 years Raphael House of Portland has helped domestic violence survivors and their families find safety, hope, and independence. We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence. We serve a diverse population of domestic violence survivors and a substantial facet of the work we do is to safely shelter and help house survivors as they are escaping violence. The challenge of accessing affordable housing for families who are in the midst of building stability and safety in their lives cannot be understated. Advocates spend a significant percentage of their time seeking affordable housing, helping survivors apply, overcome barriers, and move into their new safe homes with the hope they will be able to build new lives. These families deserve this safety and stability moving forward and we are dedicated to this mission.

Making our jobs even more challenging is that Oregon's housing crisis has a particularly serious impact on victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Oregon women face significant rates of housing instability. Women who rent are the most cost-burdened in the state.

High housing cost-burdens make it harder to leave an unsafe situation, and create a greater risk of abuse or homelessness. State and national surveys have identified the need for safe, stable, and affordable housing as the greatest unmet need for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in both rural and urban communities across Oregon.[2] HB 2001 will increase housing opportunities, and thus provide safety and stability for Oregon families.

HB 2001 is also about racial equity and justice. The large amount of residential land in every Oregon city that is devoted to detached, single family housing is economically exclusionary and often the result of a history of racist redlining, financial lending, and zoning practices. It's long past time to change this; all neighborhoods should be welcoming to all Oregonians.

Passage of HB 2001 will help lead Oregon forward out of the past, towards a healthy and vibrant future where all families have the opportunity to thrive.

As Advocates of survivors, we urge support of HB 2001 with the Dash 16 amendments, and we thank you for your time and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small arrowhead.

Emmy Ritter

Executive Director

Raphael House of Portland