



## OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## Needed Housing Investments Hang in the Balance

### *Efforts to Address Housing Crisis Trapped by Republican Walkout*

SALEM – As the second Senate Republican walkout of the 2019 Legislative session nears the end of its first week, a backlog of bills that are critical to Oregon are hanging in the balance.

Legislation that would provide Oregonians with paid family and medical leave insurance, campaign finance reform, and additional Medicaid funding through increased tobacco taxes are just some of the bills that would make a positive difference across the state. Additionally, the walkout endangers a slew of bills that would further address the state's housing crisis.

In February, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 608, the first-of-its-kind bill that strengthens tenant protections by eliminating extreme rent gouging and most no-cause evictions. Oregon was the first state in the country to pass these kinds of statewide tenant protections, and other states are considering similar legislation since the passage of this historic bill.

But this is only one part of a broader set of solutions to address Oregon's housing crisis.

Below is a list of key housing bills and budget items, totaling more than \$350 million in general funds and bonding, that are at risk if the Senate Republicans do not return to complete the remaining business before the constitutional deadline on Sunday, June 30.

#### **Renter Resources**

- \$3 million to help survivors of domestic violence get needed housing and \$3 million to provide tenant supports and education services to help renters navigate a tight rental market (HB 2006).

## **Homeless Services and Prevention**

- \$50 million for state homeless assistance programs, including \$45 million to fund the Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), and \$5 million to strengthen temporary shelter options in high-need areas.
- \$50 million in state-backed bonds to create permanent supportive housing, an evidence-based model to end chronic homelessness for currently houseless individuals.
- \$14.5 million to prevent and end homelessness for families with children who are eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- \$2.9 million to provide rental assistance for individuals in permanent supportive housing developed with proceeds from state-backed bonds.
- \$300,000 to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to help homeless youth access stable housing in Clackamas County.

## **Affordable Housing Preservation**

- Expand laws regarding the preservation of publicly supported housing (HB 2002).
- \$40 million in lottery bonds dedicated to affordable housing preservation and acquisition.
- \$15 million to preserve manufactured home parks, replace unsafe manufactured homes with more energy efficient homes for low-income residents, and develop or improve infrastructure in manufactured home parks (HB 2896).

## **Housing Supply**

- Provide more “middle housing” choices for Oregon families by lifting local bans on smaller, less expensive housing options like duplexes, triplexes, quads and townhomes, including \$3.5 million in technical assistance to local governments (HB 2001).
- Direct agencies to assist local jurisdictions with housing production strategies to meet their local housing needs, including \$1 million in technical assistance to local governments (HB 2003).
- \$150 million in state-backed bonds for affordable housing development via the Local Innovation Fast Track Program (LIFT).
- \$5 million to invest in workforce housing development in rural areas where the lack of housing development is constraining economic growth.
- \$5 million for affordable housing for veterans in Marion and Polk counties.
- \$2.5 million in lottery bonds for HOPE Plaza in Salem to house and provide services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- \$2 million in lottery bonds to Hacienda CDC in Portland to transform a former strip club into affordable housing and community center to support economic development.

## **Homeownership**

- \$1.5 million for homeownership counseling services, including homeowners facing foreclosure.

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