



*From the Offices of
Representative Ben Bowman
Representative April Dobson
Representative Hai Pham*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2025

Press Contact:

Devin Mullins, rep.benbowman@oregonlegislature.gov

Dylan Sheldon, rep.aprildobson@oregonlegislature.gov

Sara Kim, rep.haipham@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon House Committee on Housing Advances Bipartisan Bill to Uplift First Time Homebuyers

*HB 3188 removes the barrier of a down payment for eligible first-time homebuyers,
opening a path to homeownership for Oregonians*

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon House Committee on Housing unanimously approved a bill yesterday which allows eligible first-time homebuyers to purchase a home without a down-payment.

[HB 3188](#) makes it safer for financial institutions like credit unions and banks to offer loans with no requirement for a down-payment. By removing the up-front financial barrier, this bill empowers financially responsible renters who can manage monthly payments, but lack the savings for a large down payment to achieve homeownership.

“For many, the dream of homeownership—and all the financial benefits that accompany it—is totally lost because our standard mortgage model requires up to 20% of a home’s purchase price to be paid upfront,” said **Rep. Ben Bowman (D - Tigard, Metzger & S Beaverton)**, House Majority Leader and a chief sponsor of the bill. “We have to find ways to help working people build wealth, and this concept is an excellent way to do that.”

A [2023 study by the Office of Economic Analysis](#) revealed that more than half of tenant households in Oregon lack sufficient residual income to cover basic necessities like food and child care after paying rent.

“By helping first-time homebuyers, we’re making sure Oregon remains a place where working people can put down roots and grow their families,” said **Rep. April Dobson (D - Happy Valley & N Clackamas County)**.

A [research team with Habitat for Humanity](#) found that U.S. homeowners have, on average, 400% more wealth than renters with similar demographics and earnings, showing the critical role that homeownership plays in building long-term financial security.

"Access to homeownership is not just about securing a place to live—it's about unlocking the potential for building generational wealth, empowering families to create a foundation for future success and stability," said **Rep. Hai Pham (D-S Hillsboro & W Beaverton)**.

The bill now moves to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

###