



Press Release

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Oregon Housing Chairs Joint Statement in Support of Governor Kotek's Emergency Orders to Take Immediate Action on Housing and Homelessness in Oregon

SALEM — In strong support of Governor Tina Kotek's [Executive Orders issued today](#), legislative housing chairs [Representative Maxine Dexter](#) (D-Portland) and [Senator Kayse Jama](#) (D-Portland) released the following joint statement:

“As the legislators tasked with leading the Legislature’s response to our urgent housing and homelessness crises, we support Governor Kotek in taking immediate and much-needed action by Executive Order.

“Every county in the state is grappling with a rise in homelessness. Safe and equitable access to food and shelter is foundational for Oregonians being able to benefit from other investments, such as in healthcare and education.

“This is a moment for leaders at every level of government and in every industry to come together to solve this humanitarian crisis. We hope and expect the executive orders will be the catalyst for the change Oregon needs.

“We applaud Governor Kotek’s leadership, and, as legislators, we are committed to taking bold and courageous action at the legislative level. We call on our colleagues across the state to work with us to make sure every Oregonian has a place to call home.”

The [Oregon Housing Need Analysis](#) report, requested by the Legislature through House Bill 2003 (2019) and published last December, shows the root cause of homelessness is a lack of housing supply. Right now, 140,000 new homes need to be built to meet the needs of Oregon’s current population. Rising rents and limited access to affordable health care, mental and behavioral health services, healthcare and substance use disorder treatments, as well as with the overarching challenges imposed by the costs of inflation, have only exacerbated this crisis.

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