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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2024

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Building More Housing, Preventing Homelessness Remain Top Priorities

*Statement from House and Senate Housing Chairs Following U.S. Supreme Court
Decision in Grants Pass v. Johnson*

SALEM, OR – Today, the U.S. Supreme Court released its ruling in the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* case, saying city laws aimed at banning homeless residents from sleeping outdoors did not violate the Constitution's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

Senator Kayse Jama (D - Portland), chair of the Senate Housing and Development Committee, and **Representative Pam Marsh (D - Ashland)**, chair of the House Housing and Homelessness Committee, released the following statement on how this decision will impact housing policy in Oregon:

“Our goal remains making sure every Oregonian has access to safe, affordable housing so no one has to resort to sleeping on the streets. Homelessness will be solved by building more housing, supporting shelters and programs to get people on the path out of homelessness.

Local jurisdictions have a duty to maintain livability for everyone in their communities – and, importantly, there needs to be a reasonable balance between those concerns and the reality that too many Oregonians don't have anywhere safe to sleep. Today's Supreme Court ruling does nothing to solve the housing and homelessness crisis in Oregon. The legislature remains

focused on addressing the root causes of homelessness, increasing the housing supply, and funding programs that help get people on a path out of houselessness.”

The Oregon legislature passed significant legislation to address the root causes of the housing and homelessness crisis at the state level. This includes the [Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package](#) passed earlier this year, which made a \$376 investment in expanding affordable housing and shelter supports and enacted policies that doubled down on the [\\$2 billion housing package](#) passed in 2023.

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