

February 23, 2023

Honorable Members of the House of Representatives,

We respectfully request that you pass the Affordable Homes Act (**HB 1628**), making a significant investment to expand the availability of affordable housing in our cities. The demand for secure and affordable housing is severe across the state, particularly for low and moderate-income households. With more and more families struggling to find affordable housing options, it is imperative that each level of government take decisive action and invest in housing. With rising housing costs, population growth, and chronic underproduction, the shortage of affordable housing is making homelessness a growing concern for many families.

The lack of affordable housing options is an issue that affects not only the well-being of individuals and families, but the health and vitality of our communities. We believe that all levels of government play a critical role in addressing the housing crisis. The Affordable Homes Act is a key step towards meeting the housing needs of all Washingtonians—helping the state to close the gap of 500,000 low-income homes by 2044 that the private market will not supply.

The Affordable Homes Act aims to increase the supply of affordable housing and offers jurisdictions the option to establish a local funding source dedicated to affordable housing. A local funding source is critical and can make affordable housing projects more competitive to receive other state, federal, and private funds to support housing development and operations. The ongoing housing crisis requires a comprehensive solution and large-scale investments in housing to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Washington residents.

We urge you to allow us to do our part in making a significant and positive impact on the lives of individuals and families in our cities by supporting **HB 1628**.

Sincerely,