

Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency:

Those of you I was able to meet when in Salem May 1<sup>st</sup>, I thank you for your time discussing these issues so important to me and the homeowners I serve. We have seen the foreclosure filings in Jackson and Josephine County more than double since SB 1552 was passed (see attached spreadsheet), and while the need escalates, our funding diminishes. I had high hopes for SB 1552, and with the amendments the passing of SB 558 will bring to this Foreclosure Avoidance measure, I believe we will have an extremely valuable tool for our homeowners. This foreclosure crisis is not yet over. The homeowners we meet with are still seeking solutions to financial hardship, and the negative equity that keeps them trapped in homes they suddenly find they cannot afford due to circumstances outside their control.

Although servicers and lenders have moved toward more reasonable efforts to deal with these escalating defaults, we aren't there yet. Time and time again we run into lost paperwork, unresponsiveness and ineptitude. We need SB 558 to be able to move these workout requests that are simply stuck. We are seeing positive outcomes avoiding foreclosure, but we could be seeing more, and absolutely need those outcomes to take place more expeditiously so our caseloads turn faster to keep up with demand. As outlined in the email sent on SB 558 in March (see below), the homeowner stories are real and ongoing. I can speak to you passionately and firsthand about what it is like to deal with loss of business, reduced income, divorce, medical issues, death and other external factors that lead to foreclosure and the devastating effects on families. I wish I could do so personally when you meet on Tuesday, but a full calendar serving our area homeowners has to take precedence.

- We need your support and continued efforts to work to end this housing crisis.
- We need the tool SB 558 creates.
- We need funding to act as the "glue" housing counselors are in setting realistic expectations with homeowners and proposing reasonable solutions to servicers/lenders.
- We need legal aid to assist the many legal issues we come across with almost all our foreclosure filings now judicial filings, compounded by the selling off of servicing and loss of agreements in these servicing transfers.
- We need to close the window these servicing transfers to smaller servicers that would be deemed exempt opens, so this shift does not penalize the homeowners trying to resolve their hardship

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully Submitted,

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