



*From the Desk of
Representative Bombardieri
04/19/2013
Dan Bombardieri*



04/08/2013

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written to show support for passing the amendment to House Bill 2316 A - Engrossed. This bill will exclude the first \$60,000 of retirement based assets from the net worth calculation when determining eligibility for participation in the Individual Development Account (IDA).

As an Initiative Partner, providing IDAs in rural Oregon, I have witnessed on many occasions the impact that the current net worth calculation has had on otherwise eligible low income households. In rural Oregon, many families are finding themselves under employed for the first time; their hard earned retirements the only memory of their previous economic situation. As many of them struggle to make due on less, they still have to plan for college tuition, home repairs and potential business expansions, and the IDA is a fantastic way for them to leverage their hard earned monies without accumulating debt. However, at this time they are penalized by disqualification for having too great a retirement account.

One family in particular contacted my office so that they could replace their already failing roof. A former educator, Jeff had saved a sizable pension but had already had to dip into it in between jobs. Once he was re-employed and back on track, the IDA seemed like a really great option, however the balance of his retirement exceeded the net worth limit, making it impossible for him to participate.

By passing House Bill 2316, we can provide a solution that allows low income individuals and families to participate without penalizing the same good savings behavior that we are trying to reinforce through the IDA. The amendment to the bill does not cost anything to implement, and because the proposed increase of \$60,000 is not a tremendous amount, we can still provide IDAs and feel confident that the people benefitting from the program are still the same people the IDA was intended to serve.

Please join us in support of House Bill 2316 A- Engrossed. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebekah Barger".

Rebekah Barger
IDA Program Manager
NeighborWorks Umpqua

