

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen and members of the Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood:

My name is Chriset Palenshus and I work for NeighborWorks Umpqua. Our mission is to enhance lives for Oregon residents in Coos, Curry, Douglas and Josephine County. We do this by increasing access to affordable housing and creating partnerships that promote community stability, business success and economic growth

Please support the renewal and expansion of the Oregon Individual Development (IDA) Initiative by passing HB 2011 out of committee.

The Oregon Individual Development Account Initiative has brought more family well-being for me and my community.

Here's how: My son and I have had a hard time saving money for a house and renting was difficult. One year we had to move 3 times for one reason or another. I love to garden and grow food and moving all the time was extra tough on us because of that. With the IDA Program I was able to open a savings account and finally keep money in it. I was able to put a down payment on a house probably 10 years earlier that I would have otherwise. Now my son and I are more financially stable and able to pay off the mortgage rather than rent. Financially things are still challenging but we don't have to worry about where we will live which is huge. We are planting fruit trees and will finally be able to enjoy the harvest!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chriset Palenshus | Education IDA Specialist

NeighborWorks Umpqua

Building Homes, Building Communities, Building Lives | nwumpqua.org

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