



1 February 2016

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
Members of the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Gelser and Senators,

Children First for Oregon advocates for long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies that keep children healthy and strengthen families. We write in support of SB 1533 because it is time for Oregon to join 48 other states and allow local elected officials the option of using regulatory tools to create more affordable housing for Oregon families. Oregon's children suffer from a lack of affordable housing with 43% of households with children in Oregon are renters. Additionally, 26% of women with young children work in low-wage jobs. With historically low-vacancy rates, the laws of supply-and-demand alone have led to massive increases in rents and encouraged development of higher cost housing. The state and local governments have invested large funds to increase value of many properties, but have little recourse to ensure lower income families can afford to live in their communities.

Additionally, you have, or soon will have, a copy of the 2016 Children's Agenda produced by United for Kids. United for Kids participants share a commitment to public policy changes and shared investments that benefit the health, safety, economic security, and education of Oregon's children. Six organizations belonging to United for Kids support Inclusionary Zoning, which will allow local governments to protect kids from housing instability and its effects, including disruptions in schooling resulting in negative impacts on academic achievement.

We ask you to join us in supporting housing stability for Oregon's children and pass SB 1533.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tonia Hunt
Executive Director