

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** Laura Golino de Lovato <laurag@nwpilotproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 5:57 PM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 794

Hello -

Please accept the following testimony in reference to SB 794. Thank you.

**TO:** OREGON SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**FROM:** Laura Golino de Lovato, Executive Director

Northwest Pilot Project

1430 SW Broadway, Ste 200, Portland, OR 97201

503-478-6868

**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**RE:** Senate Bill 794 -Establishment of Oregon Renter Assistance Program for purposes of providing temporary rent subsidies to tenants of privately owned rental housing.

Honorable Committee Chair Senator Gelser, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address SB 794. I am the Executive Director of Northwest Pilot Project, a nonprofit organization providing housing placement assistance and transportation to very low income seniors (age 55+) in Multnomah County, Oregon. While we work in the greater Portland area, all of Oregon is experiencing dramatic increases in the cost of housing which leaves very low income and vulnerable seniors unable to afford their current rents.

Northwest Pilot Project supports the intent of SB 794: the creation of a fund to provide rent assistance. SB 794 could be one of multiple solutions to ensure that low income seniors and others are not left homeless because their fixed incomes will never increase as fast as their rents. However, we believe that any such program must also have the option of providing rent subsidies on an ongoing – i.e. permanent – basis in addition to providing

temporary rent assistance called for in the bill. Therefore we urge the Committee to add permanent housing subsidies to the scope of this bill.

We also recommend that eligibility for rent assistance from this fund be focused on tenants whose income is 30% or less of the Median Family Income - \$15,400 for one person. These are the people whose rent will never be affordable without a permanent subsidy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

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**Laura Golino de Lovato | Executive Director | Northwest Pilot Project**

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