

# OREGON LAW CENTER

522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 812

Portland, Or. 97204

(503) 295-2760

## **Testimony in Support of SB 5530, Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation Capitol Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means**

**Submitted By: Sybil Hebb**

**May 17th, 2017**

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, please accept my written testimony in support of \$100 million in lottery-backed bonds in SB 5530 to preserve currently affordable homes.

OLC's mission is to achieve justice for low income communities by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. One of the most important issues in the lives of our clients is the challenge to find safe, stable, and affordable housing. Safe and stable housing is a basic human need. Housing is about much more than a roof over one's head; it is about opportunity. Without safe and stable housing, it is difficult or impossible for low-income families to hold down a job, keep children in school, access neighborhood amenities, and stay healthy. We know that the loss of housing causes or exacerbates poverty.

We are currently at risk of decreasing the number of homes affordable to people with low incomes. Across the state, thousands of people with extremely low incomes (less than \$10,000 a year) live in homes with federal rent subsidies and in manufactured home parks which are at risk of conversion to market rate. If these affordable units are lost, thousands of Oregon families will be displaced.

In the midst of our current extreme housing crisis, we cannot afford to lose this precious resource and risk displacement of our neighbors. We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. The impact of this loss would be felt for generations to come.

Full funding of \$100 million in SB 5530 will allow the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue on its success helping vulnerable low-income Oregonians stay in their homes and in their communities. This proven public-private partnership has so far helped more than 9,000 families, seniors, and people with disabilities living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities.

We urge your support for continuing this investment and ensuring our most vulnerable community members continue to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your work and for your consideration.