

March 12, 2019

Senate Human Resources Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Gelser and Co-Chair Heard,

As a an employee of NeighborWorks Umpqua that provides Individual Development Accounts through our Dream\$avers program and as a former IDA saver, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 790. I see first-hand how important this program is to helping people achieve their goals and acquire an asset. Success as savers is a symbol of hope and is as important as the asset itself. IDA financial education and coaching strengthens financial health. The IDA program made it possible for me to purchase a car that I normally would not have been able to afford. I previously owned a car that was 17 years old with over 150,000 miles. Now I don't have to worry about expensive repairs that go along with owning an older car. Living and working in a rural community, Roseburg, brings awareness that providing an IDA program that allows people to save for an asset and establish a habit of savings is vital to stabilizing low to moderate income communities. I believe everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better future for themselves. IDAs offer the hope and opportunity to do so.

Thank you for service and for reading my letter.

Jennifer Leveque