

Senate Committee on Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Heard and Members of the Committee,

In June 1999 my wife and I, together with our five children found ourselves homeless as the result of a real estate deal gone bad. It was at that time we discovered and purchased our hundred-year-old farmhouse in West Medford. A troubled neighborhood at the time. Though well built, our house had fallen into disrepair as a "drug house". Every door in the house had a padlock on it. As a carpenter by trade I eagerly made renovating this abused jewel a permanent second job.

My wife and I have raised our five children in this house. All five of them graduating from South Medford High School, just blocks away. Two have graduated with degrees from Oregon State and Portland State University's. Unfortunately our lives were interrupted greatly when I was diagnosed with cancer. 24 hours later our oldest son was also diagnosed with the same Lymphoma Cancer. After a lengthy treatment and eventually a Bone Marrow Transplant at OHSU, I am happy to say we are both alive and doing well. Our finances were radically altered for quite some time however. They are now just beginning to improve. Several months ago with our home on the verge of foreclosure someone reached out to me from the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program. I was linked up with counselors from an organization called NEDCO. Without the passionate, dedicated, even friendly counselors encouraging my wife and I through the virtual jungle of paperwork, processes, and deadlines we would never even had hope to make it to the end successfully. It felt like a true life "Indiana Jones" movie. One misstep and we're done. Losing everything we've worked for and hoped to retire in. Their dedication, (particularly Amy Hamilton), paid off and we are now moving to higher ground as a result. It honestly makes me believe I have State Legislators that truly care about the welfare of my family and I. The Oregon Health Plan saved my life through a Bone Marrow Transplant and the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance legislation saved my home through good legislation and skilled counselors, namely the ones at Nedco. Please support SB 820.

Oregon families like mine depend on it to beat the scourge of homelessness and move confidently into the future.

Sincerely,
Charles Lang