



June 11, 2019

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nathanson, Chari Hass and members of the committee,

I am asking you to take action to ensure that Individual Development Accounts remain available to Oregonians who need them. Please include the provisions of SB 790 in HB 2164.

Individuals Development Accounts are a valuable tool to give Oregonians with low incomes the boost they need to build a more secure financial future. Our organization is the administrator of three different IDA programs in collaboration with 60 nonprofits, educational institutions and housing authorities across 32 counties. We have had the honor of working closely with our partners who deliver these valuable resources to their communities, allowing us to see first-hand the impact that just a little support and a boost can give. Through our program, we have helped over 1,000 families buy their first home creating over \$176 Million in assets; helped to launch over 700 small businesses; paid for nearly \$14 Million in tuition. This is real, significant and long lasting impact for our community members.

We need the Legislature to take action to keep the Oregon IDA Initiative working in our communities, and we need to expand the reach of IDAs to more people. There is such a high demand for this program that we cannot meet all of it with the current funding levels. This program is unique, is like nothing else and it works.

Thank you for your hard work this session and thank you for your attention to keeping IDAs available.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Bassett, Program Director
CASA of Oregon
20508 SW Roy Rogers Rd. Suite 155
Sherwood, OR 97140