

**From:** [Bryce Downey](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits SHDEV](#)  
**Cc:** [Burton, Robert](#)  
**Subject:** SB 1532  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 12:23:29 AM

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To the Honorable Chair Fagan and to the Vice Chair Heard:

This week you will be having the opportunity to finalize the step needed to authorize SB1532. In effect your hammers are the force behind those busy and waiting hammers working to rebuild homes for those who have been able to barely manage but are losing ground, losing homes as time measures unfavorably against their struggles to maintain a home. It is a desperate time for many. Working to prevent homelessness is a worthy cause.

Prevention is difficult to conceptualize. The roots of homelessness are many. Habitat works along side of other efforts to keep largely disabled, aging, and poor persons from being homeless or in a home of such poor condition that they are at risk of greater decline in health. Clearly the efforts to rebuild has opened doors for shut in persons, provided warmth, kept the weather out, and given hope where there had been little. Funding is an important contribution to sustaining and extending these grassroots efforts to do more.

Your acting to pass SB 1532 on behalf of those in need and those largely who volunteer through Habitat will be consistent with long term solutions aiding in secondary prevention of homelessness. Thank you for listening to my request.

D. Bryce Downey MD  
committee member,  
Benton County Habitat Advocacy Committee