



February 3, 2020

Senator Shemia Fagan, Chair  
Senate Housing and Development Committee  
Oregon State Legislature

RE: SB 1532 – Healthy Homes 3.0

Dear Chair Fagan and Committee Members:

The mission of Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) is: To magnify the impact of Community Action to serve low-income Oregonians by advocating for resources with a unified voice, strengthening partnerships, and building capacity. Funding for Healthy Homes will make it possible for CAPO Weatherization services to incorporate a “one-touch” philosophy by serving homes using a holistic approach. CAAs will be able to help families avoid energy and medical costs, which strains family budgets.

SB 1532 would combine weatherization with home repairs, aimed at reducing the financial burden of inefficient and dangerous homes. Implementation would use a collaborative approach to combine energy conservation and healthy home upgrades to address two key issues for families: the rising costs of energy and health care costs. A healthy homes initiative would bring this one-touch mindset to any new housing-based energy auditing effort. This presents a unique opportunity to incorporate healthy homes concepts by impacting the largest statewide low-income energy efficiency program in Oregon.

This shift to a holistic, coordinated approach will assess multiple potential risks or hazards within a home, including broad safety and health upgrades along with information during home visits, and coordination of referrals and follow-up. This move toward “healthy homes” is in concert with federal initiatives to approach housing-related hazards and deficiencies in a coordinated and comprehensive way to prevent diseases and injuries. This approach also reflects a more efficient and effective use of existing resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important bill.

Sincerely,

Scott Cooper, President  
Board of Directors