



Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

February 5, 2020

To: Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Heard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: SB 1532 - Healthy Homes Pilot Program

Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Heard and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development, my name is Miranda Mishan and I serve as the Community Development Policy Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 1532.

Homeownership and housing stability are priorities for the NAYA Family Center. In their 2011 report on Native American communities in Multnomah County, The Coalition of Communities of Color and Portland State University reported pervasive disparities in homeownership levels for Native Americans. These disparities are worsening significantly over time, with homeownership rates dropping as the cost of living continues to rise. Neighborhoods are unstable and regularly disrupted, as Native Americans continue to leave their homes in the city in search of affordable housing.

Resisting displacement is essential in order to build wealth and keep our communities together. Home repairs are a crucial part of this, as they alleviate the pressure that homeowners feel when faced with safety and health issues in their homes. NAYA's current home repair program, funded by the City of Portland, provides weatherization, energy efficiency and home repair services to 58 low-income owner-occupied households of color throughout the City of Portland.

These services keep low income communities of color in their homes, which has far reaching benefits on economic development, stability, and community health. Senate Bill 1532 would provide the opportunity for NAYA to expand our home repair program and leverage funds to provide services to more families and communities of color in Oregon. As gentrification persists, and Native American homeownership rates drop, the passage of this bill is critical. I'm joined by others today asking for your support of Senate Bill 1532 and the Healthy Homes Pilot Program, for the prosperity, growth, and enrichment of our communities.

Commented [WM1]: Who wrote the report?

Commented [WM2]: Do you have a dollar amount of the funds which are spent? It might be useful to let them know how much money is being invested to keep low-income homeowners housed.

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Thank you again for your time.

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