

February 4, 2021
IDA Initiative Testimony

Senate Committee on Housing & Development
Chair Jama, Vice Chair Linthicum, and Member of the Committee,

Crystal Granger
Harsch Investment Properties

I am writing to ask for your help and support to ensure Oregon invests in the vitality of our communities, by supporting the Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative's request for funding to support Oregonians in achieving the dream of homeownership, higher education, starting a business, and other goals.

I participated in the IDA Program to save for college and through my participation I was able to break a cycle of education and economic barriers to become a first-generation college graduate in my family. This program is vital to continue upward mobility for all Oregonians and I tell anyone and everyone I know or meet how proud of this accomplishment I am and how honored I am to live in a State that provides this life changing opportunities.

IDAs offer matched savings which can support families and communities facing the financial impacts of COVID. IDAs can both help people keep from falling behind, and position people to stabilize and move forward as recovery begins. IDAs are one of the few existing tools we have to help meet urgent needs and support an equitable recovery from COVID-19 impacts and for many who were affected by wildfires. IDAs are already in place and ready to make a difference in our community.

The IDA Initiative is asking that you support SB 148 in renewing the IDA Initiative Tax Credit for the next six years. In addition, we ask that you support additional funding of \$7 million in General Fund appropriations in the next biennium as more Oregonians seek to participate in this important program.

The IDA Initiative would not be able to accept new savers without your action in 2021. Your support would allow individuals and families from every corner of the state to begin saving for a better future and would help those who are hardest hit by the financial hardships that the spread of COVID has created.

Thank you for your service, and for your attention to this critical request.