



Native American Youth and Family Center

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May 7, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Senate Bill 5534 – Support

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller, I am Blackfeet and Cherokee and I represent the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) located in Portland, Oregon. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Family Center is a family of numerous tribes and voices who are rooted in sustaining tradition and building cultural wealth. We provide culturally specific programs and services that guide our people in the direction of personal success and balance through cultural empowerment. Our continuum of lifetime services creates a wraparound, holistic healthy environment that is Youth Centered, Family Driven, and Elder Guided. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 5534.

As an affordable housing provider and an organization who provides services to the prevention, intervention, and access to housing within our community, it is paramount that we take steps to safeguard our current housing structure and provide additional funding to maintain all regulated, multifamily affordable housing units, as well as public housing and manufactured home parks. The Oregon Legislature has been a partner in the fight to curb homelessness and stabilize families in need through supportive housing measures. This bill would provide \$100M to preserve and maintain affordable housing throughout Oregon. With your support of SB 5534, we can reinvest in affordable housing and ensure housing is safe and available for generations to come.

NAYA Family Center supports any measure that addresses barriers to housing and community resources, especially those of native, indigenous descent and communities of color. Therefore, on behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center we urge the passage of Senate Bill 5534, for housing stabilization, access, and opportunity for all Oregonians.

Thank you,

Community Advocacy Manager