



April 6, 2023

Re: Support of fully funding HB 3018 and HB 2933

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive. That's why I support Fair Shot for All's [People's Budget](#)—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and economic justice framework.

In particular, as the Health Navigation Department Director for Northwest Family Services, I urge you to support full funding for HB 3018 (Survivor Housing Funds) and HB 2933 (Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund) in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, to ensure continued access to vital life-saving community-based, culturally-specific, and Tribal Nation shelter and housing services for survivors of domestic or sexual violence and their children.

- Funding for HB 2933 ensures that basic emergency shelter and safety planning advocacy services for survivors are not cut. These services save lives in crisis.
- Funding for HB 3018 ensures that housing advocacy and placement assistance for survivors is not cut. These services help survivors and their children move into or stay stable in safe housing as they transition out of emergency,

Northwest Family Services runs the only culturally- and linguistically-specific Domestic Violence Shelter in Oregon for Spanish-speaking Latina women and their children. This funding is life-saving for the women and children to whom we provide respite as they flee unsafe situations. We then help navigate them through finding and succeeding in a new housing situation and, as needed, healthcare and employment. In fact, we recently 'graduated' four families into stable housing who, without this funding, would still be in crisis.

In closing, we are asking you to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in these key priorities. Oregon's reserves are already healthy and strong. Rather than saving more for a future Rainy Day, we need to make investments now. We create widespread economic opportunity for all when we invest in access to safety and services for our communities.

I urge you to support full funding for HB 2933 and HB 3018 and the other policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,

  
Jaqueline Vargas  
Director of Health Navigation