



Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Testimony in support of SB 1530

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February 13, 2024

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our more than 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience, and livable communities.

AARP Oregon supports SB 1530. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities and that includes expanding housing options and ensuring affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians *of all ages and abilities*.

Long term this includes increasing the housing supply and we have joined efforts in other legislation. More immediately, we must continue to protect Oregonians who *today* are facing eviction and homelessness. Rent assistance and eviction prevention are critical and proven methods to keep Oregonians in their homes, including older Oregonians. This bill will provide the necessary funding to continue supporting some of the most vulnerable amongst us.

I want to briefly cover some critical data points. Based on AARP analysis of census data, we can estimate that in 2024, 61% of Oregonians facing homelessness are 45+ and older, close to 40% are 55+ and older *and more than 22% are 65+ and older*. We have estimated data for evictions in 2024. Over 50% of those over 45+ and older face eviction, 38% are over 55+ *and more than 22% are over 65 years of age*. Older Oregonians with fixed incomes have little recourse to address this crisis. And to read about this experience first-hand, an [article](#) a recent edition of Street Roots, a Portland publication produced by those experiencing homelessness and poverty, highlights the unique challenges faced by older Oregonians facing eviction and surviving homelessness.

We join the many other voices urging this Committee to pass SB 1530 and provide robust funding to support the critical programs to assist those who need rent assistance.