



February 12, 2023

To: Senate Housing and Development Committee
From: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda
RE: Support for SB 1530

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon (OCO) is a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, brings together ~135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. This year, the Stable Homes for Oregon Families package (SB 1530) is a top priority of the 2024 Children's Agenda. **We strongly urge you to pass SB 1530 to make adequate investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention, to prevent homelessness for Oregonians.**

A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need. Every Oregonian should have access to a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation.¹ 86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment, against people who have fallen behind on their rent. There are close to 2,000 eviction filings a month.

Oregon already has one of the highest rates of youth homelessness in the country. Youths who are in foster care, who identify as LGBTQ+, and/or are youth of color, especially Black, Latinx, and/or Indigenous, are especially at risk of being homeless. 21,478 Oregon students experienced homelessness during the 2022-2023 school year.² These students' circumstances put them at an incredible disadvantage through no fault of their own. They are unable to adequately study, adequately learn, and wholly engage in their education. These students who experience homelessness are 27% less likely to graduate from high school than housed students.

The legislature must fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package included in the 2024 Children's Agenda, which has had a proven track record of keeping working Oregonians safe and stable. This package calls for:

- \$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.
- \$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.
- \$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians.

¹ [OR housing: Oregon among states with the most cost-burdened renters: Harvard \(koin.com\)](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/reportcards/Documents/rptcd2023.pdf)

² <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/reportcards/Documents/rptcd2023.pdf>

- \$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.

SB 1530 is an action that the legislature can take now to have an immediate impact on our state's housing crisis, while we work towards long-term solutions to providing support to rehouse our currently homeless neighbors and ending our housing and affordability crisis. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of SB 1530 to prevent eviction and displacement, ensuring stable homes for Oregon's children and families.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon
 Oregon Law Center
 Community Alliance of Tenants
 Urban League of Portland
 Baby Blues Connection
 Children's Institute
 Clackamas Women's Services
 Community Action Team
 FACT Oregon
 Family Forward Oregon
 Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
 IRCO
 Latino Network
 Metropolitan Family Service

Nurse-Family Partnership
 Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
 Oregon Association of Student Councils
 Oregon AG's Sexual Assault Task Force
 Oregon CASA Network
 Oregon Center for Public Policy
 Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
 Oregon Food Bank
 Oregon Primary Care Association
 Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
 Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
 Southern Oregon Success
 TransPonder
 Trillium Family Services

