



ShelterCare
499 W 4th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401

February 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

ShelterCare is a Lane County nonprofit providing housing and mental health services to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We serve an average of 1,500 individuals in the Eugene/Springfield area each year.

ShelterCare is writing in support of SB 1530 as the need for shelter beds and support services is very high in our community and across the state.

Housing Oregon, Governor Kotek, and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) are advocating for a vital investment of \$65 million into Oregon's homeless shelters and transitional housing system. Funding that we have received from the All-In dollars in the last year has helped ShelterCare increase the number of shelter beds we have to offer as well as increase our eviction intervention services. Programs like these need continued funding in order to make a lasting impact on our community and those we serve.

Staff who provide support services to our program participants are a big part of the success of our agency, several of these positions are funded by All-In dollars. Stable, ongoing funding allows organizations, like ShelterCare, to hire and retain the staff who support our program participants through their journey to housing stability. Relationship-building is an important part of case management, as many of our program participants have trauma related to homelessness; it can be difficult to build trust with them. Staff turnover thus negatively impacts our program outcomes.

SB 1530 is necessary funding to ensure continued progress toward addressing Oregon's homelessness crisis.

Thank you for your dedication to housing Oregonians.

Alyssa Gilbert
Development and Communications Coordinator, ShelterCare