

Submitter: James Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

I am writing in this morning in favor of this Senate Bill to fund operations at our homeless shelters. We have been under building housing for decades and one of the most obvious and visible results of that are “people living on the street” or in our case also in the forests and scrub land.

Central Oregon and Bend specifically has one of the highest rate of people experiencing homelessness, including hundreds of families and children with an alarming increase in the number of seniors.

The city has done an excellent job of expanding our shelter capacity over the past three years, leading the region’s efforts to get people off the street, stabilized, and on the path to housing. But this work has been largely funded by one-time state and federal dollars. Our local budgets cannot sustain the ongoing funding for the operation of these shelters as well as the administrative costs for the City and our partner service providers.

The City is at risk of losing hundreds of shelter beds by the end of 2025. We need \$3.6 million dollars to meet the needs of our shelter providers. We are asking this funding be allocated as transparently and quickly as possible, and this bill needs to pass to do that.

This bill provides much needed funding to keep us on the right path toward solving homelessness. Without the funding, more Central Oregonians will be living on the street.