

2/12/2024

Testimony in support of bill SB 1530

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

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

My name is Sam Guthman, my pronouns are she/her and I am the Policy Manager at APANO Communities United Fund (CUF) and APANO Action Fund (AF), sibling, culturally-specific organizations that unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work.

I am here to testify and share my gratitude and thanks for including \$7.5M into SB 1530-3 for the Healthy Homes Grant Program– as part of a climate resilience fund and an initiative to keep low-income people housed. That said, we respectfully state that our communities need is large and a full \$15M will keep this program going until the 2025 biennium budget takes effect. I also beseech the committee to vote ‘yes’ on SB 1530 to support rental assistance and housing for our state’s most vulnerable populations.

Given the scope of the problem, the Healthy Homes program plays a key role in desperately-needed improvements like mitigating mold and fixing holes in roofs and walls after events like the most recent ice storm, which was a devastating climate event that will only continue to repeat. Much like what SB 1530 stands on, the Healthy Homes Initiative is the same: keep people in their homes, safely.

I thank the committee for the newest amendment (-3) and its inclusion of the \$7.5M allocation and urge the members here to think of the communities that will benefit from the full \$15M ask. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and share in crafting a solution that will affect everyone in Oregon.

Sam Guthman
Policy Manager
APANO and APANO Action Fund