

RE: Support SB 1530 -3 Amendment  
Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Wednesday, February 14th

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development,

My name is Samantha Hernandez and I am the Healthy Climate Program Director at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR), an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates from across the state working to address the gravest threats to health and survival. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Oregon PSR to voice our support for the SB 1530 -3 Amendment. We appreciate your acknowledgment of the Healthy Homes Grant Program as a housing solution and the proposal to invest \$7.5 million in the program's Healthy Homes Repair Fund. However, double this investment is needed to ensure that enough financial resources are available for low-income Oregonians.

With record breaking winter storms and hot temperatures, it is important now more than ever that programs like Healthy Homes are adequately funded to meet the home repair and improvement needs of low-income Oregonians to survive the climate crisis. For example, extreme heat during a heatwave, harmful smoke during a wildfire, or cold air during a frigid winter storm might enter a home through a broken window or an uninsulated structure. A costly and inefficient oil furnace will not provide warmth for someone who cannot afford to run it. Healthy Homes covers the cost of high-efficiency technology and resilience improvements that help Oregonian residents throughout the state maintain affordability of their utility bills, overall well-being, and safety.

Our first line of protection against climate calamities like intense heat waves and hazardous air quality from wildfires is our homes. The climate crisis disproportionately affects frontline communities, who experience worse air quality, greater housing and utility expenses, and poor health outcomes. We must guarantee that people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas, and the elderly have access to affordable repairs, healthy homes, and lower utility bills.

Oregon PSR strongly urges you to pass SB 1530 -3 Amendment out of the committee. Oregon PSR also humbly asks that you contribute as much as you can to this fund, in order to ensure that it receives at least \$15 million this year.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

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OREGON   
PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Thank you,



Samantha Hernandez  
*Healthy Climate Program Director*

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