

Submitter: Neamhain Hughes Virtue

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

Hello;

I am a parent, an employee, a college student, and someone who has been living at or below the poverty line for my entire life. And I'm writing to ask you to support increased rental assistance to reduce homelessness and improve the fabric of Oregon society. Study after study, pilot programs and rigorously documented research have all demonstrated unequivocally that the cost of housing assistance is a mere fraction of the cost of homelessness. But even more important than budgetary and financial concerns is the social cost of the burgeoning housing crisis. We have an increasing air of hostility and hopelessness, as more and more of us struggle to stay housed and afloat with ballooning inflation and skyrocketing costs of living. It harms Oregon when so many of us cannot engage meaningfully in our communities because we are barely scraping by. Myself and many other people I know have had to seriously consider whether we can even afford to keep living in Oregon, a place we love, because it is so expensive and there is just not enough assistance available. I urge you to examine the big picture and do what is right for all Oregonians, especially the most vulnerable among us. I thank you for your time and consideration.