

Submitter: Denise LaBuda

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

Dear Committee Chairs

Bend, and our sister communities in Central Oregon has made great progress is using a multiple housing type strategy to move our homeless residents on the path to permanent and/or permanent supportive housing. It is critical that we continue to fund shelters that have been in existence for years in order to continue moving the needle in the right direction.

Central Oregonians are grateful for the Governor's emergency order funding that helped open new shelter beds in our communities, but none of that money was eligible for supporting shelters that we stood up in the past couple of years before this emergency funding was available.

Key things to note about our region:

* Central Oregon has one of the highest rate of people experiencing homelessness, including hundreds of families and children, veterans and senior (60+).

* The City of Bend has worked diligently to increase 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. This work has been largely funded by one-time state and federal dollars. Local budgets cannot sustain the ongoing funding for operations of these shelters and administration costs for the City and our partner service providers.

* The City of Bend will need \$3.6 million dollars to meet the needs of our existing shelter providers. The City is at risk of losing hundreds of shelter beds by the end of 2025 if we do not receive additional funds.

*SB1530 will provide critical funding to keep us on the right path toward solving homelessness in our community and across Oregon. Without SB1530 funding, Bend and our surrounding communities will be forced to send those currently sheltered back to the streets.

Thank your for your time and I ask you to approve SB1530.

Sincerely

Denise LaBuda

