



February 13, 2024,

Chair Jama and esteemed members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee,

Oregon continues to grapple with a homelessness crisis reinforced by the severe cost burden on renters. Oregon AFSCME Council 75 supports SB 1530 as a holistic approach to supporting renters in the state, preventing evictions, and addressing homelessness.

Our state is in the middle of an ongoing housing affordability crisis. Over 80% of evictions happen because someone is behind on their rent. Each eviction case represents an Oregonian teetering on the brink of homelessness.

Rent assistance is an effective tool to help prevent homelessness and support our struggling renters. Despite noteworthy investments in 2023 to tackle the housing crisis, rent assistance programs remain underfunded and are poised to exhaust their resources.

Across sectors, our members continue to offer essential public services to Oregonians. Investments in housing will help AFSCME members serve the public and make ends meet in the current renters' economy.

The \$45 million in rent assistance found in SB 1530 is a crucial step toward helping our members and all Oregonians have access to affordable and safe housing.

Please pass SB 1530.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75