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February 13, 2024

*Re: Stable Homes for Oregon Families Package (SB 1530):*

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

On behalf of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), we are pleased to submit testimony in support of the Stable Homes for Oregon Families Package (SB 1530) providing \$45 million for rent assistance, \$6.5 million for culturally specific housing services, \$6 million for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians, and \$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units. **A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.**

The mission of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first domestic violence shelter, CWS is a community-based organization providing comprehensive, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, elder and vulnerable adult abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and stalking. Our Housing Program provides diversion and prevention, rapid re-housing, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and support services to over 400 households annually. Additionally, The Village Emergency Shelter provides over 11,000 nights of shelter each year.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and lack of financial resources to pay for housing often prohibits survivors from leaving their abusers. With soaring rental costs and plummeting vacancy rates in Clackamas County, the difficulty in securing stable and affordable housing is particularly pronounced for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

In closing, these funds are critical for victims in Clackamas County and will open countless opportunities for families to achieve personal safety, wellness, autonomy, and stability. We hope you will support the Stable Homes for Oregon Families Package (SB 1530) to invest in rental assistance and reduce barriers for survivors. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Erlbaum".

Melissa Erlbaum  
Executive Director