

The Commons Law Center

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Oregon State Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: SB 1530

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your commitment to finding real solution to our housing crisis. I write to encourage your support for as much rental assistance as you can find... and then some.

People's stories reflect the data: An illness, injury, death, or job loss leads to falling behind on rent, leads to eviction. Most evictions in Oregon are for nonpayment. At the Multnomah County Courthouse, we hear these stories at our eviction defense clinic.

Of the 186 tenants we served between 9/1/23 and 12/20/23, 136 avoided eviction by filing an Answer to enable rental assistance time to help them catch up; another 21 avoided eviction with an agreement. With legal help and, in most cases, rental assistance, 84.4% of people served avoided eviction.

Bienestar de la Familia also operates onsite during the eviction docket at the Multnomah County Courthouse. Their direct-to-the-people service approach inspired our in-person clinic. Families are squeezed in too many directions with growing costs that are not matched by growing resources. Too many low-income families in Oregon are at risk of losing their housing. Rental assistance helps bridge the gap.

Sincerely,



Amanda Caffall