



Submitter: Ramon A. Hernandez

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB 1530

Hello,

Co-Chair Dexter, Co-Chair Sanchez, Co Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Ramon Alexander Hernandez,

I want to thank our legislature for everything that you do in communities across the state of Oregon helping children, adults, and families with their essential needs, including housing. As the Community Engagement Officer at (MWVCAA) Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, we are committed to striving for proper and equitable housing solutions that will meet the needs of our urban and rural communities in the Willamette Valley. I am here with you today supporting SB 1530 which will address the growing and urgent need for shelter beds and homelessness resources that unfortunately more and more Oregonians are in need of today. SB 1530 will provide the funds necessary to help people exit the cycle of housing instability.

I hope that the committee will recognize and help support individuals and families that are currently living in fear over the fact that they may lose their home or continue to live in a dangerous environment where every day is a struggle between life and death. In 2023 the annual point-in-time count found that there were more than 20,000 people experiencing homelessness in our state. We believe SB 1530 is a wise investment that will provide funds for emergency shelters, eviction prevention services, and affordable-housing development funding that will empower individuals and families that need the proper assistance to find a safe and affordable home in our state of Oregon.

A recent PSU study pointed out that our state only has enough shelter beds for 42% of our homeless population and also made note that homelessness rose by 8% from 2022-23. The funds and policies in this bill will seek to impact these unfortunate numbers by creating shelters, providing resources for our population that is at-risk of being homeless and create policies to ameliorate home ownership in our middle class. We urge you to support SB 1530 as it is the solution we need for the many Oregonian families facing the reality of not sleeping under a safe roof.

I thank you for the time.

Ramon A. Hernandez

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency



References

- Greene, J., Spurbeck, F. H., and Zapata, M. (2023). 2023 Oregon Statewide Homelessness Estimates. Portland State University Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative.