

Submitter: Austin Folnagy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

February 14th, 2024

Support for Rent Assistance Investments to Prevent Homelessness

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee:

As a housing provider, who specifically works with veteran, homeless youth, and homeless populations. It's time to ensure adequate investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention, to prevent homelessness in Oregonian. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation. As a result, Oregon has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation.

The legislature must fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package included in Fair Shot's People's Budget which has had a proven track record of keeping working Oregonians safe and stable.

Altogether, this package calls for:

\$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.

\$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.

\$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians.

\$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.

86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment, against people who have fallen behind on their rent. There are close to 2000 eviction filings a month, with an average of 3 Oregonians per household. So imagine everyone in your district evicted every year. The economic impact that would have in your community and the impact it has in our greater Oregon Community. The availability of rent assistance for tenants in the critical time of need will help ensure that landlords get paid, evictions are avoided, and most importantly, Oregonians stay housed.

The People's Budget investments will keep people housed, while we work towards long-term solutions to end our housing and affordability crisis. Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Austin Felnagy
Magyar Property Management and Investment LLC