

March 20, 2025

Re: Support For HB 3809 -1

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and Members of the Committee:

I am the Organizational Director of Neighborhood Partnerships (NP). NP is the administrator of the Oregon IDA Initiative in partnership with Oregon Housing and Community Services. I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Partnerships to urge you to support HB 3809, with the -1 amendment. Please “Fix the Funding” for IDAs!

As you know, the Legislature created IDAs in 1999 as an economic development tool to provide Oregonians with better access to education and individualized support to reach their financial goals, including homeownership, home repair, higher education, purchasing a vehicle, starting a business, and retirement. The state matches participants’ own savings up to 5-to-1 to make their dreams a reality. Over 19,000 Oregonians have participated in this life-changing program over the past 25 years.

HB 3809 -1 is needed because the state tax credit that funds IDAs has not kept pace with inflation. While the program’s tax credit revenue has been stagnant since 2009, the cost of everything that IDA participants save for has increased **significantly** – especially the two most common savings goals of higher education and homeownership. Each saver needs more of the program’s limited funds in order to be successful. If the Legislature does not act this year, the IDA program will shrink by 50% and will enroll fewer than 500 people each year going forward.

By passing HB 3809 -1, the Legislature can “Fix the Funding” and return the IDA program to solid financial footing, ensuring that your constituents can continue reaching their goals of higher education, purchasing a home, starting a business and beyond. You have a unique opportunity to stabilize an incredible tool that advances economic justice in our state. I urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Phillip-Robbins, J.D.

Neighborhood Partnerships (NP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 91-1943624. Other than as indicated, no other ‘goods or services’ were received as a quid pro quo for the contribution. This letter is your receipt and should be kept with your tax records. The charitable deduction may be disallowed if you are unable to provide this acknowledgement to the Internal Revenue Service upon request.