

Submitter: Bobby Cochran
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

To the Co-Chairs and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Please invest \$173.2M in homelessness prevention and rent assistance programs in SB 5011.

My name is Bobby Cochran, and I'm writing to strongly support the Governor's proposed investment of \$173.2 million into rent assistance and homelessness prevention programs in Oregon.

As someone who works directly with renters across the state, I see every day how close so many of our neighbors are to losing their homes—not because they're irresponsible, but because the cost of housing has far outpaced wages and stability. For most families facing eviction, it's not a long-term pattern. It's a one-time crisis—an unexpected bill, a medical emergency, or a missed paycheck—that pushes them to the edge.

Programs like rent assistance, legal advocacy, tenant outreach, and housing navigation don't just prevent homelessness. They protect everything that depends on housing: a child's ability to stay in school, a worker's ability to show up for their job, and a community's ability to remain intact.

We can't build our way out of this crisis fast enough. While long-term solutions are critical, we also need immediate tools to keep people housed right now. Rent assistance and eviction prevention are some of the most cost-effective, human-centered ways to do that.

Please support the full \$173.2 million investment—including \$109 million for rent assistance and \$63.2 million for critical supportive services—to stabilize families, prevent displacement, and ease the burden on our overextended shelter systems.

I urge you to invest \$173.2M in homelessness prevention and rent assistance programs.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Bobby Cochran
Tenant Education & Support Coordinator

Community Alliance of Tenants
Portland, OR