

Senate Human Resources Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Gelser and Co-Chair Heard,

I am writing to support Senate Bill 790 which would expand the Oregon IDA Initiative to \$15 million in tax credits and increase the matching funds to \$3000 every 6 months.

The impact of the IDA program on our clients building assets is huge. The program often provides the difference an Oregonian needs to afford college and secure a better paying job to support their family, or to be able to purchase a home in a rapidly rising housing market that marginalizes so many into homelessness. It makes it possible for clients to become an economic contributor by starting a small business that creates jobs. The value in the program not only lies in the asset goals each participant works toward, but the lasting impact the financial and asset education has on providing them tools necessary to succeed years after completing the program.

The IDA program is rich with success stories, but the demand is greater than what is available. For example, our program established the Rental IDA pilot program to help homeless individuals and families transition into affordable housing by saving toward their move-in costs including deposits and first month rent. They attend Rent Well classes to learn skills that establish better rental habits. This is a major step toward a positive landlord/tenant relationship, but as you know, we are in a homeless crisis and the current funds only go so far.

I appreciate your hard work and dedication to making Oregon the amazing state that it is. I am asking that you vote yes on SB790 to expand the IDA Initiative to bring hope to more Oregonians across the state.

Best regards,

Randy Lucas



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Asset Building Specialist

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