

From: [Jennifer Anderson](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Cc: [Rep Nathanson](#); [Sen Hass](#)
Subject: Col Co HFH Testimony on SB 2164 for 6-14-2019
Date: Friday, June 14, 2019 3:51:43 PM

Dear Chair Nathanson and Chair Hass, and members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures:

I am asking you to take action to ensure that Individual Development Accounts remain available to Oregonians who need them. Please include the provisions of SB 790 in HB 2164.

For the past several months I have been working to integrate the Oregon IDA into our home ownership program. Columbia County Habitat for Humanity is now partnering with Neighborworks Umpqua to give our next Habitat homeowners access to this amazing program.

All of the clients we serve fall below 60 percent of the median income per our program guidelines. The reality is that most we serve with our home ownership program are between 40 and 50 percent of the median income. Almost all applicants have less than \$1,000 in savings. At this income level, it takes a very financially savvy person to set aside any money after basic living expenses are covered. What I love about the Oregon IDA program is that it offers a huge incentive to save and the support and counseling to make very low income people successful. I imagine the lessons learned from the year or two in this program will enable people to achieve other financial goals throughout their lives.

Specifically, as it relates to our home ownership program, it has not always been possible to secure grants or other funding for closing costs for our homeowners. Downpayment assistance in any form is a necessity for low income families. The Oregon IDA goes beyond traditional downpayment assistance and illuminates a path to a better future. I believe this program is underutilized and underfunded.

Thank you so much for all your hard work in Salem.

Sincerely,

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