

**From:** [Lisa Dawson](#)  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep Nathanson](#); [Sen Hass](#)  
**Subject:** NEOEDD Testimony on SB 2164 for 6-18-2019  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2019 4:36:52 PM

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

I am writing to request your support for the Individual Development Account (IDA) program and request that you include the provisions of SB 790 in HB 2164.

Our organization, the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, has been offering IDAs to residents of Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties since the fall of 2007. I believe this is one of the most successful programs I have been involved with in the past 30 years. The program encourages and assists modest-income individuals on their way to self-sufficiency and ascent into the middle class. We have supported over 150 people through this program. Over 86% of those who have left the program have graduated successfully - together they have saved over \$272,000 matched by over \$800,000. Many of the participants have told us that they have learned how to set a financial goal for the future and save for that goal. Many of them didn't know that it was possible to plan for the future and actually take small steps to achieve a long-term goal. This realization will have life-long impacts on the participants in addition to saving for a tangible or intangible asset that will serve them into the future.

We serve a large geographic area and primarily offer microenterprise and post secondary education IDAs. There are always more people interested in the program than funding available. We were the only IDA provider in our region for many years and have recently been joined by Community Connection of NE Oregon which provides home ownership IDAs. We are grateful that the program exists and hope that it can continue to expand. There are a few counties in eastern Oregon that do not yet have good local partners to deliver the IDA program and I would like to see the program grow to ensure robust statewide coverage.

We appreciate your hard work and the difficult decisions you must make as you balance a budget and decide which programs will receive limited funding. We hope that you will consider the IDA program one of your high priorities and ensure that it continues to serve motivated asset-limited Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dawson, Executive Director

Pronouns: She/her/hers

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