



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: **Support for SB 1532 Healthy Homes**

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Heard and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 1532, the Healthy Homes pilot program.

Since 2010, our critical home repair program (A Brush with Kindness) has assisted 123 low to very low-income families with critical repairs in Newberg, Dayton, Dundee, St. Paul and Sherwood. The repairs have most-often centered on health and safety issues for the elderly, disabled and those on fixed incomes. Without our assistance, and the assistance of a program like Healthy Homes, families would not be able to remain in their homes.

In Newberg alone, there are over 600 units of manufactured housing, which is, by far, our largest stock of affordable housing. Protecting and maintaining this essential stock is imperative to not exacerbate the housing crisis we currently face. Our critical home repair program has consequently focused heavily on this housing sector.

SB 1532 will allow us to greatly expand our home repair program, which will, in turn, allow low to very low-income families to remain in decent, safe homes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of SB 1532 and for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rick Rogers
Executive Director