

From: [Sherri Gates](#)
To: [Exhibits_SHDEV](#)
Subject: support SB 1532
Date: Friday, January 31, 2020 4:19:44 PM

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

I would first like to express my gratefulness for your advancing leadership pertaining to the Healthy Homes Proposal SB 1532.1. I have taken a couple of workshops early in the birthing of the initiative and as a school district employee, seeing children on any given morning needing some stable counseling for the past evenings' experiences in unsafe or unhealthy homefronts, I applaud your efforts.

1. Right here in Benton County, far more people than we currently have the capacity to serve are coming to Benton Habitat for Humanity (BHFH), seeking repairs to the homes they own but lack the financial means or capacity to maintain in a healthy and safe condition.
2. Over the past two years, BHFH has completed more than 35 home repairs. With an investment of capital available from the state, we have the capacity to significantly increase this critical service to members of the community. The people we serve have low to very low incomes, many are elderly, living in manufactured homes or stick-built houses with critical repair needs. As a past Habitat for Humanity Family Mentor and Family Selection committee member, I have worked with many families who have expressed a strong preference and/or necessity of remaining in their homes. Many would have difficulty paying market rents were they to lose their homes.
3. Our friends at Community Services Consortium will directly benefit from this resource, too. Half of the Healthy Homes pilot resources will go out by formula to be paired with weatherization funding that community action agencies put to much-needed use both locally and around that state.
4. We expect SB 1532, the Senate Housing committee's bill, to move during the first week of the short session into the Interim Joint Ways & Means subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development.

Please help to get SB 1532 over the finish line--so that we can immediately expand the availability of life-enhancing home repairs right here in the community.

Thank You for your support,

Sherri V. Preciado Gates

for the Benton Habitat Advocacy Team