Vote YES on HB 4067

From the office of Representative Sheri Schouten

Sheri Schouten

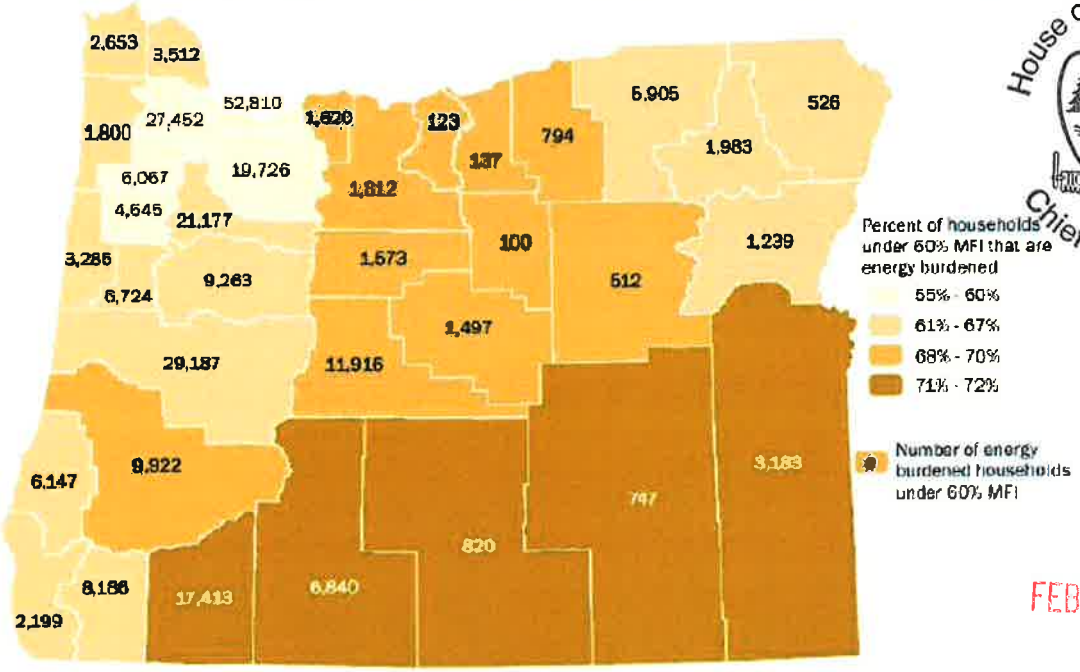
We are healthcare and social services providers and advocates who **support HB 4067 because it would help Oregon families struggling with energy burden**, paying a disproportionate amount of their income toward energy bills. HB 4067 would allow the Public Utility Commission to approve, but not mandate, differentiated rates, like discounts for investor-owned utilities.

These are needed strategies, because **many families have to make tough decisions about whether to keep the heat on in the winter or pay for medicine or food**. Lack of home heat, financial stress, and malnourishment and lack of access to medications have a huge spread of harmful mental and physical health impacts including cases of asthma, respiratory problems, heart disease, arthritis, rheumatism, and more. Children and seniors are most susceptible to these health impacts. Energy affordability is paramount especially for those with chronic health needs such as an asthmatic who relies on electric-powered nebulizers, or a diabetic who needs to refrigerate insulin.

Programs like weatherization and energy assistance are oversubscribed and don't reach everyone in need, but **HB 4067 would open a new toolbox that could help more families afford energy bills and be safe and comfortable in their homes.**

Populations Experiencing Energy Burden

Share of Energy Burden of Households Below 60% MFI



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