

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 2, 2022

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson, State Senator from Senate District 10 and I am here to add my voice of support to SB 1557.

As you know, affordable housing is built with use restrictions for a certain period, often 30 or 60 years. Once that time is over, owners can either renew their commitment to keeping the housing affordable or they can move units to market rate and start increasing rent each year. If the owner moves the units to market rate, often residents are quickly priced out of their homes and forced to move. The problem is that waiting lists for affordable housing units are often years long. Recently, I helped deliver for Meals on Wheels here in Salem and talked to a woman who was living in a mobile home park who has been on an affordable housing wait list for over two years. It is not an easy and simple process to move when you live in affordable housing units and so pricing residents out of their homes is a dangerous path toward leaving families on the streets with no where to go.

SB 1557 would offer a modest rental assistance subsidy as a pilot program to residents living in two complexes – Orchard Park Apartments in Salem and Woodspring Apartments in Tigard – so that if their unit was moved to market rate, they could apply to receive a small monthly subsidy equal to the amount of the rent increases that the resident experiences. A few important things to note about this bill – the subsidy would *not* follow the resident to future homes, it would not apply to new residents in the building and the program would be administered by the Public Housing Authority. This bill is a partner bill to Rep. Lively's bill, HB 4043, which would provide a tax credit to owners to incentivize keeping these units in the affordable housing pool.

Everyone deserves a place to call home that is safe, stable and affordable. Pushing income eligible seniors, people experiencing disabilities and families out of their homes after having had stability for over 30 plus years can force people onto the streets, which is the last thing we want to see happen. For all these reasons, I urge the committee to support SB 1557.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Patterson".

Senator Deb Patterson