

Submitter: Emily Squadra
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Human Services
Measure: HB4079

Hi, my name is Emily Squadra and I am here to advocate for PASSING HB4079, which would establish a basic income pilot in Oregon. Basic income has proven to be one of the most effective ways to help families experiencing housing and food insecurity, which right now, is 1/3 American families. Not only that, but basic income is, dollar for dollar, the most cost effective way to lift people out of poverty. Pilot programs, like the one proposed in HB4079, have been tried dozens of times across the country, with similar results: participants improved their overall quality of life in several tracked metrics. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-many-ubi-guaranteed-basic-income-programs-us-cities-states-2021-12>)

As we all know, the pandemic has exacerbated the economic crisis facing many American families, with families of color being impacted nearly twice as much as their white counterparts. In a country that spends \$777.7 billion on military spending, this is completely unacceptable. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/27/biden-signs-enormous-us-military-budget-into-law#:~:text=President%20Joe%20Biden%20has%20signed,advocated%20for%20cutting%20military%20spending.>)

With senators like Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Oregon has shown to be a leader in progressive proposals and the passage of HB4079 would continue that legacy. Oregon needs to meet this moment swiftly with empathy and effectiveness. The Universal Basic Income pilot proposed in HB4079 would do that. We are talking about passing a bill that would help Oregon families meet their most urgent and basic needs: food and shelter. The days of blaming people for their own economic circumstances are over. We have witnessed billionaires hoard massive amounts of wealth while the middle class of this country is gutted. (<https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/16/business/oxfam-pandemic-davos-billionaires/index.html>) This is, in every single way, unsustainable and unacceptable.

People need money, now more than ever and this is why I am a strong advocate for establishing a basic income pilot in Oregon. It is simply the most effective and efficient way to help people help themselves.

Thank you,
Emily Squadra