

Submitter: Kaysie Condron

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Human Services

Measure: HB4079

I am a freelance artist and programs like the one proposed in this bill are become increasingly important and necessary for people like me. Especially as Portland's housing prices continue to rise, and prices of gas and groceries and just about everything else is rising as well, it's becoming that much more difficult to make a modest living for oneself. Add to that the trauma of the pandemic, and the barriers to building a better life are insurmountable. I personally am having an incredibly difficult time finding a balance that allows me to be able to afford to live whilst building my artistic practice. I'm not even sure I would qualify for assistance under this bill, but as an example, this program would help me make space to experiment and build my clientele. As it stands, I'm forced through financial barriers to continue making rote work in order to make the quickest and cheapest buck so that I can continue living indoors. This keeps me in a tight finances cycle, but assistance like this would make it possible for me to break out of that cycle and make art on a larger scale that actually benefits my community. It is incredibly difficult to get resources without assistance. I am incredibly privileged to live with family who help me, but there are a huge amount of families in our city that have these kinds of difficulties (to a much more severe degree than my own situation). They need our help. They deserve shelter and food and autonomy. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your time.