

Submitter: Brenda Kinoshita
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Ways and Means Committee Members,

As an employee of Clackamas Women's Services I urge you to fully fund the Survivor Housing Fund (HB 3018 + SB 5514), the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (HB 2933 + SB 5514), and the Stable Homes Homelessness Prevention Package – Rent Assistance Budget Resources (OHCS Budget, SB 5511). These bills are important to me because:

Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (HB 2933 + SB 5514) \$10M
The Oregon Sexual and Domestic Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) is the only state general fund source of support for community based agencies like CWS that provide confidential, trauma-informed safety and support services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA). The need for these supportive services continues to grow and the burden of providing vital services is challenged by increasing costs, lack of funding, staffing shortages, and other challenges. This funding would help to ensure stable access to robust and life-saving services for survivors.

Survivor Housing Fund (HB 3018 + SB 5514) \$6M
Permanent, affordable housing is the greatest need facing survivors of domestic and sexual violence (DV/SA), since our statewide housing shortage, rising rent costs, and increasing inflation all make securing housing a huge barrier to families affected by the trauma of DV/SA. This funding will help end housing instability for survivors. Confidential and trauma-informed CWS Advocates and our community partners facilitate access to housing for survivors. This funding helps pay for systems navigators, temporary shelter, and assistance with application fees, move-in costs and deposits to help survivors gain access to housing.

Stable Homes Homelessness Prevention Package – Rent Assistance Budget Resources (OHCS Budget, SB 5511) \$100M
We are facing an unprecedented crisis as rental assistance sunsets, rents continue to rise, and evictions will further increase homelessness throughout the state. Emergency rent assistance and eviction prevention resources at the community level allow swift and decisive intervention to prevent Oregon renters, especially those at risk for becoming homeless due to DV/SA. By investing in prevention efforts at scale, the cycle of displacement and eviction will prevent further overwhelming our homelessness response efforts. On average, there have been over 2,000 eviction filings per month every month since October of last year, and over 86% of these

filings are due to nonpayment. Each of these cases represents an Oregon household at risk of homelessness, and these numbers are but the tip of the iceberg – studies show that approximately five times the number of people in eviction court suffer displacement outside of court. Rent assistance is the single most effective tool at preventing eviction and homelessness – making sure that landlords get paid and tenants stay housed. Smart investments in homelessness prevention resources today help us avoid higher human, financial, and societal costs later. This complements the Stable Homes Coalition eviction reform (HB 2001) and rent stabilization (SB 611) policy proposals, to ensure that as many people as possible can access resources in time to prevent displacement.

I ask you to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in these key priorities. Oregon's reserves are already healthy and strong. Rather than saving more for a future rainy day, we need to make investments now to help create widespread economic opportunity for all by investing in access to food, housing, and health care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kinoshita
Director of Development and Communications
Clackamas Women's Services, Oregon City