

ROGUE ACTION CENTER

April 20th, 2023

To: Oregon State Legislature Ways and Means Committee

From: Dana Greenblatt, The Rogue Action Center

RE: Fair Shot People's Budget

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive. **That's why I support Fair Shot for All's [People's Budget](#)—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and economic justice framework.**

The People's Budget includes smart, community-led policies, investments, and workforce supports to address systemic inequities in Oregon, including the Fair Shot Agenda:

- Indigenous Language Justice—SB 612, SB 911
- Reproductive Health and Access to Care—HB 2002
- Stable Homes Homelessness Prevention Package—HB 5511, HB 2001, SB 611A
- In Defense of Humanity—SB 413, SB 817

As a policy advocate at the Rogue Action Center, I also urge you to support investments in HB 5511 to provide an additional \$100 million in rent assistance.

Oregon is in a high-rent emergency. Evictions have skyrocketed and most of them are because people have fallen behind in their rent. **Renters in our community here in Southern Oregon have experienced overlapping economic stressors from COVID-19, the 2020 Alameda Fires and exorbitant legal rent increases that are resulting in evictions and unstable housing.** Additional rent assistance is a smart investment - combined with SB 611A. Too many renters in Southern Oregon and across the state are one high medical bill or unexpected cut in work hours from facing eviction and HB 5511 will help them stay in their home until they get back on their feet.

SB 611A is also essential to ensure that rent increases are reasonable so that taxpayer dollars aren't spent to cover extreme and unnecessary rent increases.

We are asking 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. We create widespread economic opportunity for all when we invest in access to food, housing, and health care for our communities, and strengthen our workforce through fair wages, benefits, and protections.

I urge you to support the policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,

Dana Greenblatt