



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: February 13th, 2024
RE: In Support of Senate Bill 1530

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee:

Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support families and help them succeed, both in the workplace and at home. We work to ensure that Oregon is a place where all families can be economically secure and have the time they need to take care of each other. We believe having a safe and stable home is a critical component to every family's success – it impacts a family's safety and security, their childrens' educational outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for the entire family. We must act to ensure adequate investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention, to prevent homelessness in Oregonian and that is why we are in strong support of Senate Bill 1530.

The rent increase reports from across Oregon show the great need for SB 1530. Studies show that just a \$100 increase in median rents in a community is tied to a 9% increase in homelessness in that community.

Multiple studies show that the housing crisis affects Black, Indigenous, and other people of color significantly– especially those who identify as women. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report from 2022 found that the gap between wages and housing costs continues to be the largest for people of color, and particularly women of color¹: more than 70% of Black and Latina women earn an hourly wage that falls short of the one-bedroom Housing Wage.

With a sharp spike in high-rent homelessness, it's urgent that you invest in proven prevention strategies that keep Oregonians housed. At current levels of need, the funds previously allocated will be gone by July 2024. The legislature must fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package included in Fair Shot's People's Budget which has had a proven track record of keeping working Oregonians safe and stable.

Altogether, this package calls for:

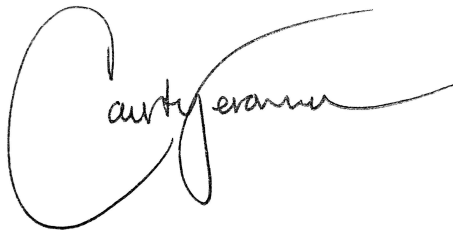
- \$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.

¹ <https://nlihc.org/news/nlihc-releases-out-reach-2022-high-cost-housing-0>

- \$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.
- \$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians.
- \$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.

Thank you for your consideration and we strongly encourage your support of SB 1530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Veronneau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Courtney Veronneau
Deputy Director of Movement Building
Family Forward Oregon

