



To: Members of the Senate Housing and Development  
From: Martha Sonato, Oregon Worker Relief Executive Committee  
Re. Support for SB 1530

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Worker Relief Executive Committee. Oregon Worker Relief is a collective of community-based organizations striving to solve the exclusionary impacts faced by Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities. We have developed and implemented programs that help support immigrant Oregonians who have lost work and wages due to COVID-19, as well as from extreme heat and smoke. We assist people in navigating the complex immigration system and provide rent assistance and eviction prevention support during this housing crisis. It is for these reasons that we strongly support SB 1530.

The homelessness crisis is worsening, affecting Oregonians across the state. In Oregon, 86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment of rent. There are close to 2,000 eviction filings a month. Now is the time to fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package, also included in [Fair Shot People's Budget](#), which has 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.
- \$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.

The Home Fund by Oregon Worker Relief provides direct relief to immigrant Oregonians who experience or are at risk of experiencing housing instability, eviction, or homelessness through our statewide network of trusted community-based organizations.



Since April 2023, the [Home Fund](#) has aided almost 5,000 people facing eviction in 28 counties. This package will keep people housed while we work on long-term solutions to the housing and affordability crisis.

We thank this committee for the time and attention to this important issue. We urge your support for SB 1530.

Sincerely,

Martha Sonato, Oregon Worker Relief