



# community alliance of tenants

February 13th, 2024

**Re: Support for SB 1530 –**

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

As a Community Engagement Coordinator for the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), I support SB 1530. This bill represents a critical opportunity to address the ongoing challenges of housing instability and the affordability crisis that affects countless individuals within the community. Through my role, I have had the unique opportunity to engage closely with tenants facing these challenges, witnessing the urgent need for comprehensive solutions like those proposed in SB 1530.

I encounter stories that paint a vivid picture of the housing crisis – families squeezing into inadequate spaces, seniors grappling with the fear of eviction, and young professionals like me dreaming of a stable, affordable place to call home. These stories drive home the need for action to enhance tenant stability and make affordable housing a reality for all.

The proposal of the bill to allocate funds for emergency rent assistance is crucial for families on the verge of eviction. This financial aid is not just a number; it represents a ray of hope for those struggling to afford a place to live due to skyrocketing rent prices. Having seen the fear and uncertainty in the eyes of people facing eviction, I can confirm the importance of this investment. By prioritizing eviction prevention and fair treatment of tenants, we can create a future where nobody has to choose between living a stable life and being treated with dignity.

Additionally, the provision of \$65 million to support the operations of shelters is indispensable. For many, these shelters represent more than just short-term lodging; they are safe spaces of recovery and hope. My close association with community organizations has allowed me to see the transformative impact of such support services firsthand.

The inclusion of \$15 million for the construction of affordable homes for first-time buyers particularly resonates with me, aligning with my personal aspirations and our collective goal of making homeownership accessible, promoting generational wealth and community stability.

This bill is crucial for transforming lives and communities and making the American dream tangible. Please support SB 1530 for its immediate benefits and lasting impact on future generations.

Thank you for considering my perspective and for your commitment to tackling the housing crisis in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Alexis Ames  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
The Community Alliance of Tenants