

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
RE: Support for SB 1530-3
2/14/24

Chair Jaima, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Eva Flores and I am a student at Willamette University. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1530-3. I want to talk specifically about SB-1530 and my support for Healthy Homes.

Healthy Homes is an innovative program supporting essential home repairs and improvements to keep low-income families healthy, reduce energy bills, and reduce medical costs. The program was given **\$7.5 million in funding**, which I am grateful to see, and I would love to see it increased to the **full \$15 million Healthy Homes has been asking for**. A legislative investment of **\$15 million in 2024** will keep this critical program going.

Homes are our first line of defense against climate disasters like extreme heat and wildfire smoke. **Frontline communities** bear the brunt of the climate crisis with higher costs for housing and utilities, worse air quality, and worse health outcomes.

About **half** of Oregonians **live in** housing built **before 1980**. Low income communities and people of color are at the **highest risk** of housing repairs.

I am a **person of color** and though I have not owned or rented property in Oregon these are all problems my future self **will** face. The **cost** of housing is **high** and the **higher** it is the **“healthier”** the home.

As a **college student** the **best housing prices** for me will most likely be in **low income areas** with issues. Though I am not currently facing it, Healthy Homes is supporting people who are.

We are in a housing crisis and a climate crisis. Oregon must tackle both. **Healthy Homes is the solution.**