

Submitter: Kathy Kniep

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB465

My name is Kathy Kniep, and I'm an organizer with PDX Housing Solidarity Project, which helps Black and Indigenous first-time homebuyers. Many of the homebuyers we work with rely on IDAs for downpayment of their first home. Many of them also access IDAs for other purposes, such as education.

I am writing to share my support for SB 465, which improves the IDA Program by removing the annual match limit from statute, and replacing it with a total match limit. This statutory change will not cost the program more money, it simply helps the IDA resource be more flexible based on each saver's situation. This improvement will allow savers to make asset purchases under their timeline, not ours, enabling some participants to invest more quickly in the financial assets that lead to higher educational attainment, stable employment, earnings from a business, or equity in a home. We encourage you to support SB465, so that we can better leverage IDAs to support Oregonians as they reach their financial goals.