

Submitter: Montarina Rogers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB949

Self Enhancement, Inc (SEI) has served the underserved the African American/Black and all other cultures within our community for the past 44 years to bridge the gap of poverty and self-sufficiency.

With the assistance of funding, fund raising, donations, and partnering with other community partners who share the same vision, heart, and passion to be a beacon of light to guide, educate, equip, empower and promote to students and their families, we have grown to be able to start projects and build affordable housing to further address the rapid growth of the housing crisis within Multnomah County and Oregon abroad.

The mission, ministry, and vision of SEI is to support all challenges our community face and preserve the heartbeat and people that built this community. Gentrification has been a weapon formed to destroy our families, hinder our children, and destroy the African American/Black family into hopelessness and despair, provoking desperation for our community to make negative life altering decisions by making living, or even surviving the ultimate struggle. I support this measure to promote hope, other solutions and ideas birthed, attracting policy changing voices to rise and address the problem to those who have the power to evoke THE SOLUTION by providing funding to address the housing crisis and entrusting not only SEI, but all other community partners and entities that are here to answer the cry of our community.

SEI has successfully implemented this model, but it has not been scaled to address the housing crisis impacting low-income communities in North and Northeast Portland. SEI co-developed three buildings housing 252 individuals: Alberta Alive: the Ronnie Herndon Building for families, the Paul and Geneva Knauls Building for Veterans, and the Dr. Darrell Millner Building.?

We are here! We are LOVE, HOPE, RESILIENCE, AND EMPOWERED TO CONTINUE TO BE THE FORE RUNNERS, AND ON THE FRONTLINES TO SERVE AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND ALL RESOURCES TO PROMOTE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK AND ALL OTHERS WHO NEED SUPPORT.