



March 11, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2735 -1

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support HB 2735, with the -1 amendment. Please "Fix the Funding" for IDAs!

In 1999 the Legislature created Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). This matched-savings program provides participants with education and individualized support to reach their financial goals, including homeownership, home repair, higher education, purchasing a vehicle, starting a business, and retirement. The state matches participants' own savings up to 5-to-1 to make their dreams a reality. Over 19,000 Oregonians have participated in this life-changing program over the past 25 years.

However, the state tax credit that funds IDAs has not kept pace with inflation. While the credit has been capped at \$7.5M per year since 2009, the cost of everything that IDA participants save for has increased dramatically. Each saver needs more funds from the program in order to be successful, yet the total funding has remained stagnant. If the Legislature does not act this year, the program will shrink by 50% and will enroll fewer than 500 people each year going forward.

By passing HB 2735 -1, the Legislature can "Fix the Funding" and return the IDA program to solid financial footing. The Housing Alliance calls on you to adopt this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Markillie".

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
markillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org