

March 25, 2025

Co- Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **Innovation Law Lab** in support of HB 5011. The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) department supports key investments in eviction prevention and rehousing services.

Innovation Law Lab is an organization of lawyers, coders and advocates working to advance immigrant and refugee justice, and we are a proud member of Oregon Worker Relief (OWR). OWR is a statewide network of community-based organizations striving to solve the exclusionary impacts faced by our community by providing direct aid to immigrants and refugees in Oregon and building systems that support mutual prosperity for all. OWR is one of the grantees of the agency for eviction prevention and rehousing services.

Supporting OHCS' budget would grant critically needed funding in support of OWRs long established Home Fund, which provides short-term financial assistance to immigrant Oregonians at risk of eviction and those facing housing instability. Oregon is experiencing a severe housing crisis. Immigrant Oregonians are among some of the most vulnerable community members to eviction and housing instability. By coming together and building a network of service, our community members have been able to stay in their homes and our communities have been made more stable, safe, and resilient. Supporting this budget would help ensure that we can continue this critical work.

In the history of the Home Fund, we have been able to provide short term rental assistance to 7,138 immigrant Oregonians from 28 counties in the state. It is investments like these that make real differences in people's lives and they need to be replenished.

Not funding the OHCS budget at the Governor's recommended levels would likely result in the displacement of the Black and brown communities we are currently serving. When we prevent evictions in our communities, we keep families safe and intact and build a healthier, more resilient Oregon.

We urge you to support these critical investments, and thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura Peña".

Isa Peña - Director of Strategy, Innovation Law Lab