



April 22, 2025

To: House Committee Revenue

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2735

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walter and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 37 years. We were originally founded to address the lack of housing for farmworkers.

While farmworker housing is a primary focus, we also serve the housing and community needs through our Manufactured Housing Cooperative Development Center (MHCDC). The MHCDC works with residents to help them buy their community and operate it as resident-owned cooperative (ROC). To date, we have completed 28 conversions of 2000 units housing more than 4000 people.

We are here today in support of HB 28735 which would increase funding for the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. Our Family Economic Opportunity (FEO) department has been operating CASA's IDA program since the tax credit was originated by the legislature over 25 years ago. We are one of 11 Fiduciary Organizations established by law to receive and distribute the tax credit proceeds funding from this program. CASA has served 6,000 of the 19,000 people who have had the opportunity to receive an IDA investment since the program was conceived.

CASA operates the largest network of IDA providers in the state. We work with 60 organizations including community action agencies, community development corporations, public housing authorities and educational institutions. We work to ensure a broad distribution of these funds serving residents in 32 of Oregon's 36 counties.

Because of our vast network of IDA providers, CASA is in regular interaction with the community, and I regularly run into IDA graduates. They tell me of the transformational aspect of IDAs. It is an effective and efficient way of building assets.

CASA urges you to pass HB 2735.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hainley".

Peter Hainley  
Executive Director