

Submitter: Melissa Elkinton  
On Behalf Of: Path Home  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I am deeply exasperated and heartbroken by the homelessness crisis in Portland. And while no one should have to endure homelessness, it is especially devastating when children experience the trauma of losing their home and must navigate life without the comfort and security a home provides. The compounding effects of homelessness on children are difficult to comprehend—and impossible to ignore.

I have been a long-time supporter of Path Home, which provides shelter and housing services for families. I support Path Home because of its proven track record of effectively using resources to help families get—and stay—in stable housing. Their approach prioritizes dignity, respect, and long-term impacts through supportive services and education. These are exactly the kinds of solutions we need.

As a business professional, I value Path Home's transparency and accountability. Their data clearly demonstrate how they effectively use their budget to make a meaningful difference. These qualities also matter to me as a taxpayer. As you consider your support, I urge you to recognize Path Home's strong history of planning and follow-through—exemplified by the successful development of the Family Village Shelter.

Path Home is now working to create Oregon's first and only co-located housing and services center specifically focused on homeless families with children. With support from Representative Chotzen and Senator Pham, they are seeking a \$5 million appropriation from the Oregon Legislature to make this innovative project a reality. My spouse and I have made a 5-year financial commitment in support of this vision. I respectfully ask that you join us by supporting this appropriation for capital construction.

As a parent, I cannot write this letter of support without deep emotion. Children should never experience homelessness. Supporting this project is a meaningful and concrete step toward making that a reality.

I sincerely thank you for your attention, your leadership, and all you do for Oregonians.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Elkinton