

Submitter: Darlene Chirman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

RE: Support for SB5531

Dear Co-Chairs Sen Girod and Rep Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee on  
Capital Construction

I am a volunteer with Path Home's Family Center, which provides a shelter for homeless families and services to assist families to find permanent housing. I am also a donor for the Capital Campaign that will build long term rental housing on the property for 50 families. In addition, services will be expanded to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

I support Path Home's request for a \$5 million appropriation in support of construction of this project through the SB5531 legislation. Oregon has the highest rate of homelessness among families in the United States. This is heartbreaking, and this project can help to address this issue in the Portland area.

This is an Oregon issue, not just Portland, and one project won't solve the issue. I support SB5531, Sections 14 and 15, which would establish a Housing Infrastructure Fund, and fund \$100 million with a lottery bond. The Fund would provide grants "to support key community infrastructure investments including transportation, water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure that will provide affordable housing for very low, low or moderate income." The need is well articulated in the testimony by Habitat for Humanity Portland Region—that the high cost of infrastructure such as roads and utilities is a barrier to producing much needed housing, especially at pricing middle- and low-income residents can afford.

Please support SB5531, especially provisions for the Housing Infrastructure Fund and the specific request for Path Home's housing and social services buildings.

Thank you, Darlene Chirman, Portland