

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

Dear Co-chairs Sen Girod and Rep Nosse, and members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

Path Home has an ambitious plan help break this cycle of homelessness in our community! We have been doing this work, supporting families with children experiencing homelessness for three decades. We are working to create Oregon's first and only colocated housing and services center specifically focused on homeless families with children.

With the help of Representative Chotzen and Senator Pham, we are seeking a \$5 million appropriation from the Oregon Legislature for this innovative project. Please support our request for an appropriation for capital construction.

I serve on the board for Path Home and have been for 14 years. The work supporting our invisible homeless families with children is crucial for alleviating the trauma of homelessness for children. You don't see these families out on the street. They are in hiding to protect their children. Our state has had trouble keeping up with homelessness generally, but it is most dire for these families with children. I support Path Home with my financial gifts and my time, because of the seasoned, compassionate and skilled staff that find housing for those families and help them retain that housing. I support Path Home with my gifts of time and resources because of the skilled staff preventing families from losing their housing in the first place. I support Path Home with my money and my time because there are compassionate staff, with long years of experience, supporting these families needing shelter. Many program staff have been with Path Home for long years. And some staff have been doing this work for 20 years. This is a testament to the leadership and our commitment to dignity and human rights for all. Housing is a human right. Path Home has a track record on how to effectively support families with children, making good use of resources, and this innovative project will offer services that families need for childcare, job placement, domestic violence advocacy, as well as mental health care and support all in one on-campus location.

It would be thrilling to see a headline that says: Oregon Breaks the Cycle of Homelessness for Families with Children! You can help us do this with your support of this appropriation.

Thank you in advance for this support! We can do this!