

Submitter: Alexa Kim
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:

Oregon has enough talented and caring people to make “Oregon Breaks Cycle of Homelessness”— headline news in the Oregonian and national news outlets. Path Home has a plan for how we can get that headline by helping families with children.

I’m writing to you because the homelessness problem in Portland and Oregon in general has not improved and actually gotten worse in the past 5 years. Oregon has the highest rate of homelessness among families in the entire country! This is not acceptable. We need to invest in better solutions run by organizations with proven track records like PATH HOME, which, due to many successes and mission, also has a very wide network of passionate supporters and volunteers.

Our best chance to reduce homelessness in the near and long term is to break the cycle by preventing children from experiencing the trauma of losing their home. Meaningful investment in real solutions now will return countless savings as people are moved out of homelessness and are able to access solutions, hope, and training in order to stay housed and help themselves and their children thrive and be productive members of our community.

I have been a volunteer and supporter of Path Home since shortly after moving to Oregon more than a decade ago. Path Home provides shelter and housing services for families. I support Path Home because I have seen the real and lasting assistance it provides to parents and their children, with not only short-term shelter but also training in accessing other resources, preventing homelessness in the first place with rental assistance, and providing child care, meals and other wrap-around services at its campus in Portland. Its leadership and staff are well-informed, dedicated and unsurpassed in effectiveness in comparison to other for- and non-profit organizations that I have served in or witnessed first-hand.

Path Home is working to create Oregon’s first and only co-located housing and services center specifically focused on homeless families with children. Once Path Home commits to a goal, it gets it done with research-based processes, complete focus and an already extensive community of supporters and volunteers. The purchase, renovation and successful implementation of its existing campus is a prime example! Along with the many families Path Home has already assisted out of

homelessness!

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.

Thank you in advance for your support and all you do for us in Salem.

Sincerely,
Alexa Kim