

June 10, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Meek, and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures:

My name is Roberta Phillip-Robbins, and I am the Organizational Director of Neighborhood Partnerships (NP). NP is the administrator of the Oregon IDA Initiative in partnership with Oregon Housing and Community Services. I am writing to share my support for SB 120-1, which raises the cap on the tax credit that funds Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to at least \$14M.

The Legislature created Individual Development Accounts in 1999. This matched-savings program provides participants with education and individualized support to reach their financial goals, including homeownership, home repair, higher education, purchasing a vehicle, starting a business, and retirement. Over 19,000 Oregonians have participated in this life-changing program over the past 25 years – spanning every House and Senate district in the state. Access to an IDA is often a game-changer for individuals and families in our state. It is a powerful tool that can bring financial stability within reach for folks who would otherwise not have that opportunity.

The tax credit that funds IDAs has not kept pace with inflation. While the credit has been capped at \$7.5M per year since 2009, the cost of everything that IDA participants save for has increased dramatically. Each saver needs more funds from the program to be successful, yet tax credit revenue has remained stagnant, prompting the Legislature to provide supplemental investments from the general fund in each of the past three budget cycles. If the Legislature takes *no* action on IDA funding this year, the program will shrink to around half of its current capacity.

By raising the IDA tax credit cap to at least \$14M through SB 120, the Legislature can return the IDA program to solid financial footing. I urge you to include IDAs in this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta Phillip-Robbins, J.D.

Organizational Director, Neighborhood Partnerships