

Submitter: Neil Nye
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1530
Support for Rent Assistance Investments to Prevent Homelessness

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee:

Instead of forcing further displacement and militarization, it should be clear that democratic reforms are required on your behalf. With the ongoing negligence concerning corporate crimes, white-collar investment fraud and money laundering, an investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention, to prevent homelessness, could provide a positive signal. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation. As a result of target displacement and exploitation carried out by the United States, Oregon has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation. The lack of a universal right to housing in the US should be a concern to you.

With present policies reflected through a sharp spike in high-rent homelessness, it's urgent that you invest in proven prevention strategies that keep people housed. At current levels of need, the funds previously allocated will be gone by July 2024. Militarization efforts must halt. This is not a matter of discussion. The legislature must fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package included in Fair Shot's People's Budget which has had a proven track record of keeping people safe and stable, and reject further corporate and financial negligence.

Altogether, this package calls for:

\$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.

\$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.

\$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services

for immigrant Oregonians.

\$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.

This pales in comparison to the US's delusional priorities.

86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment, against people who have fallen behind on their rent. There are close to 2000 eviction filings a month. The availability of rent assistance for tenants in the critical time of need will help ensure that landlords get paid, evictions are avoided, and most importantly, that stay housed, while corruption and negligence regarding real estate investments ceases.

People facing eviction and homelessness as a result. This is carried out willfully and knowingly. It is ten times less expensive to prevent homelessness than it is to respond to it. The People's Budget investments will keep people housed, while working towards solutions to end our housing and affordability crisis. The present priorities are a disgrace.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Neil Nye