

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: Support for SB 1530-3

2/13/24

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the committee,

I am Lali Trejo, a second-year at Willamette University.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony for SB 1530, and specifically for the **support of the -3 amendment and my support for healthy homes.**

As a daughter of a Latinx mother and granddaughter of immigrants, I have seen firsthand the **need for healthy homes funding.**

Healthy Homes is an innovative program supporting essential home repairs and improvements to keep low-income families healthy, reduce energy bills, and reduce medical costs. While initial funding was a good start, **it will run out of money** before the next budget cycle because there is so much need. The legislature must dedicate the funds in 2024 to keep the program going.

The expansion of Healthy Homes funding is **crucial** to keep me, my siblings, my mother, and my grandparents warm during extremely frigid temperatures in the Winter and cool in the middle of scorching temperatures in the summer.

It is truly heartbreakingly to me to see my grandparents wear layers on top of layers during the Winter because they can not afford to turn on the heat. And it is even more heartbreaking to see my grandparents, who are first impacted by climate change as frontline members get severe colds or heat exhaustion from their housing— a place where they are supposed to be and feel safest and most protected.

This is why it is important to me; as part of **frontline communities**, we are the first ones to be impacted and lessens my chances of health issues and settles my worries.

We are grateful for your recognition of the Healthy Homes Grant Program yet more funds are needed to continue to help my grandparents and other Frontline families like mine.

Moreover, as a college student, my future transition from dorm life to apartments, then hopefully to a home additionally emphasizes the need for funding... **we need this** to be a smooth transition— students don't need to worry about unnecessary costs for fuel, electricity, heat, air conditioning, and other future housing worries. This recognition of “necessities” being costly and out of reach for some residents is a **problem** in and of itself.

