



Formerly Portland Homeless Family Solutions

February 28, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 603

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

Path Home (formerly Portland Homeless Family Solutions) urges you to support Senate Bill 603, including the -1 amendment. This bill will test and study a guaranteed income program, supporting households that qualify for but do not receive other forms of housing assistance by providing direct \$1,000 monthly payments for two years

Path Home is a nonprofit in the Portland area that empowers homeless families with children to get back into housing – and stay there. We operate programs for families that support them from crisis to stability, including a street outreach team, Family Village emergency shelter, rapid re-housing & housing retention, and homeless prevention. In 2021, Path Home started a small pilot project to test the concept of a basic income guarantee for families that we serve. Funded by a generous individual donor, we provide \$575 a month to households for up to two years. We are tracking information like income level, debt level, and housing status, as well as outcomes like the family's sense of joy, how much time they spend together, and their overall sense of financial security. The outcomes so far have been staggering. One mom said she didn't realize how stressed she was about money every moment of every day....until she wasn't. Now she's making dinner for her kids every night and attending all of their sports activities at school. We have seen that this program works, and we urge you to pass SB 603.

Where similar programs have been tested elsewhere, they have proven to be effective in improving the health, stability and well-being of low-income people. This bill will explore the possibilities for a guaranteed income program in Oregon through a pilot program that immediately helps some 1,000 households.

We call on you to join us in supporting this innovative measure to directly support households that need and qualify for housing assistance, but are currently left on waiting lists, paying more than they can afford for market-rate homes, or in many cases living in shelters and on our streets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandi Tuck".

Brandi Tuck
Executive Director
Path Home