

# OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TASK FORCE



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SB 1530

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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

Greetings. I am writing to you as the Executive Director of Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), an organization dedicated to compassionately responding to and preventing sexual violence. **On behalf of our agency, we urge your support of SB 1530.**

*Our mission at Oregon SATF is to facilitate and support a collaborative, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence. We accomplish our mission by advancing primary prevention and providing multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to responders in Oregon and nationally.*

Oregon SATF believes it is time to ensure adequate investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention in order to prevent homelessness in Oregon. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation, and as a result, Oregon has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation.

**Affordable, accessible, safe housing is a preventative measure against sexual violence and other harms in our communities.** Sexual assault, abuse, and harassment can be risk factors for homelessness, and homelessness is a risk factor for experiencing rape or sexual assault. One in five adults (19%) who are homeless reported being physically or sexually assaulted while homeless.\*

With a sharp spike in high-rent homelessness, it's urgent that you invest in proven prevention strategies that keep Oregonians housed. At current levels of need, the funds previously allocated will be gone by July 2024. 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 working Oregonians safe and stable.

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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.

Hardworking Oregonians are struggling to make ends meet, facing eviction and homelessness as a result. **Every person in Oregon deserves safe, affordable housing and this bill will help ensure they have it and can keep it. The People's Budget investments will keep people housed, while we work towards long-term solutions to end our housing and affordability crisis.**

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Shannon Rose  
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\*Wilder Research. (2016). Homelessness in Minnesota: Findings from the 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study. Wilder Research. <http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2015/2015-homelessness-in-minnesota-11-16.pdf>