

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

RE: Support for SB 1530-3

2/13/24

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

Thank you for the opportunity to write testimony **in support for SB 1530**. I will be specifically addressing the -3 Amendment and my support for Healthy Homes. My name is Levi Rezanka and I live within Salem, Oregon as a student studying at Willamette University.

I am grateful for your recognition of the Healthy Homes Grant Program as a housing solution and your proposed investment of \$7.5 million in the program's Healthy Homes Repair Fund in the -3 amendment to SB 1530.

Oregon is currently in a housing crisis as well as a climate crisis. We must tackle both. Healthy Homes will help people on the frontlines stay housed by lowering the cost of living, improving health and resilience, and reducing climate pollution.

As a disabled upperclassmen attending college who has dealt with lack of heating and hot water as well as break ins on campus, I will be seeking housing off campus next year and **the inclusion of funding for Healthy Homes will help college students also in frontline communities such as people of color or disabled individuals deal with several high risk factors such as cost of living, mold abatement, air filtration, and increased energy efficiency without costing an arm and a leg**. I know that several disabled individuals often struggle with medical bills on top of housing costs and this bill can help alleviate some of that struggle for them.

Due to my personal experience as a current Oregon resident, I respectfully and gratefully urge you to consider investing as much as you can into this program, so it totals to at least \$15 million a year.

Funding for Healthy Homes also serves as a defense line for environmental disasters such as frigid cold, ice storms, extreme heat, wildfires and earthquakes. **Almost half (49%) of all homes within Oregon were built in 1980¹ thus meaning that these residencies are energy inefficient and in need of repairs**. This puts frontline communities at risk more so than other communities and those repairs will become more dire as these environmental disasters become more common.

Oregon will become more independent and resilient thanks to the passing of this bill. I appreciate the time you took to read this testimony and strongly urge you to pass SB 1530 with -3 Amendment which includes a higher investment into the funding for Healthy Homes.

¹ [U.S. Census Data](#) for housing units build year.

