

Oregon State Legislature

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

*Re: Support for SB1523A*

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nick Holder, and I am writing on behalf of Northwest Pilot Projects and the elderly clients we serve in support of SB 1523A, which is designed to bridge the digital divide for tenants and remove electronic barriers to housing.

NWPP assists many older adults who were raised in a generation with limited exposure to technological literacy. In my role, I have completed online applications with clients myself and support clients who encounter technological barriers in various stages of their housing journey. Part of my job is to work directly with clients to set up and maintain portal accounts in order to apply for housing and also pay rent.

Our organization works with many market rate and subsidized apartment buildings that use web based applications (tenant portals). The folks who seek our assistance are often people who don't have laptops and utilize simple flip-phones for communication. This bill would assist them in becoming more self-sufficient and independent by giving them the option of a paper, or printable, application.

Our agency is appreciative of all the stakeholders that came together to identify an easy solution that makes small tweaks to preserve options for tenants without imposing obligations on landlords. We are supportive of this bill and encourage you to pass it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Holder

Permanent Supportive Housing Case Manager

Northwest Pilot Project