



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

February 12, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 1530**

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee:

The staff of Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley is writing express our strong support for key components of Senate Bill 1530 that will help to expand access to affordable homeownership in Oregon.

Our Habitat affiliate serves Salem, Keizer, the Santiam Canyon, and Polk County. We recently started construction on our 100<sup>th</sup> home, located in East Salem which will be completed later this year. It is part of a 4-home development for first-time homebuyers who are low to moderate income. We are also in pre-development on a 10-home development in Independence that will be built out in the coming years.

SB 1530, Section 1 (4) and (5) allocate funding critical to our work in the community:

- \$15 million in flexible funding to support affordable homeownership development
- \$5 million in matching funds for the Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative

The underproduction of housing and shortage of entry-level homes are driving up unaffordability for everyone and impeding efforts to close racial, ethnic and generational gaps in homeownership and wealth-building opportunities. Oregon's Housing Needs Analysis makes it clear: The state must invest in the production of new homes. This includes entry level homes for sale.

Our affiliate is a recipient of HDIP funding which has enabled us to double our housing production this year. The funding is empowering us to continue to increase housing production in the coming years, including building in the rural community of Stayton.

As homeownership providers, Habitat for Humanity has a proven track record of successfully leveraging government funds to increase the production of homes sold to low- and moderate-income households in Oregon communities of all sizes. **We urge your strong support for this \$15 million investment to help us increase the support of entry level homes for sale.**

IDAs are a resource for qualifying Oregonians to leverage the power of their own savings to support self-determined financial goals. Habitat for Humanity partners with savers working toward first-time home purchases and critical home repairs. This program pairs two powerful tools: matched savings incentives and personalized financial coaching.



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Every household that partners with us is a first-time homebuyer and many of them are first-generation homebuyers. Historically, 64% of the households we serve are BIPOC. Participating in an IDA is critical to empower these households to become homeowners.

In our community, the desire to participate in the Oregon IDA Initiative greatly exceeds available openings for new savers. **We urge you to amend SB 1530 to include the full \$10 million needed to maintain current service levels for the Oregon IDA Initiative.**

As homeownership providers, the Habitat for Humanity network urges your targeted investment in key programs that expand opportunities for Oregonians to plant roots in their communities and begin building intergenerational wealth. Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and the 24 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates working across the state are well-positioned to help meet Oregon's supply shortfalls and expand support for Oregonians entering the housing market for the first time. Your support of the critical investments included in Senate Bill 1530 will ensure that we succeed together.

Thank you for your service,

Handwritten signature of Jerry Ambris.

Vicki Dickerman-Curry

Handwritten signature of Katt Osborn.

Handwritten signature of Adena Mikkelsen.

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey Miller.

Handwritten signature of Gabby Sullivan.

Jerry Ambris, Vicki Dickerman-Curry, Katt Osborn  
Adena Mikkelsen, Jeffrey Miller, Gabby Sullivan