

Submitter: Scott Shurtleff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4058

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 4058 to create a program under the Oregon Health Authority to provide air conditioners and air purifiers for Oregon residents who receive medical assistance. Smoke from persistent wildfires and extreme heat from heat domes are regularly creating unhealthy conditions in our communities. Low income families and individuals are unable to find refuge from these health hazards.

Wildfire smoke and extreme heat are public health concerns. Providing assistance to people who cannot otherwise find refuge from unhealthy conditions is a proper use of our public health funds to prevent chronic illness and unnecessary deaths.

In addition, the modifications to the Healthy Homes program established in 2021 are important to extend the public health benefits of this vital new program.

Finally, I support establishing the Heat Pump Deployment program within the state's Department of Energy. This program will help transition Oregon to a clean energy economy by making efficient electric heat pumps available to communities who lack funds to make the transition. It will create healthier buildings with efficient heating and cooling, create trades jobs for electricians and HVAC installers and contribute to a clean energy future in Oregon.

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