



# Native American Youth and Family Center

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February 11, 2021

To: House Committee on Housing

RE: Healthy Homes Program

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan and members of the House Committee on Housing, my name is Miranda Mishan and I serve as the Housing and Economic Development Policy Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development, and community support programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2842.

Housing stability is a priority for the NAYA Family Center and is inseparable from the health of our community members. People living in energy inefficient homes experience sick days and hospital visits caused by mold and cold weather, while consistently being at risk of losing their housing due to damage or otherwise unsafe conditions. Right now, the State of Oregon lacks a program to support critical home improvements for low-income families. Affordable home improvements allow low-income individuals and families to stay in their homes, while staying healthy.

Home repairs are a crucial part of resisting displacement for communities of color and low-income communities as they alleviate the pressure that homeowners feel when faced with safety and health issues in their homes. NAYA's current home repair program, funded by the City of Portland, provides weatherization, energy efficiency and home repair services to 58 low-income owner-occupied households of color throughout the City of Portland.

These services have far-reaching benefits on economic development, stability, and community health. House Bill 2842 would provide the opportunity for NAYA to expand our home repair program and leverage funds to provide services to more families and communities of color in Oregon. We are asking for your support of House Bill 2842 and the Healthy Homes Program, for the prosperity, growth, and enrichment of our communities.

Thank you for your time.



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Sincerely,

Miranda Mishan  
Housing & Economic Development Policy Coordinator  
Native American Youth & Family Center