

Submitter: Amanda Ligon
On Behalf Of: Rent Assistance Funding
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB1530

Support for Rent Assistance Investments to Prevent Homelessness

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

I have lived in Oregon off and on for almost 25 years. I love Eugene - my family, my friends, my whole community is here. However, if we don't do something about the cost of housing in Eugene, even folks like me and my friends who work full time and have masters degrees will become part of our community homeless citizens, or we will have to leave Eugene. Those are our choices. Please, please do not let this happen to us.

It's beyond time to ensure adequate investment in rental assistance and eviction prevention, to prevent homelessness in Oregonian. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation. As a result, Oregon has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation. The legislature must fully fund the Stable Homes for Oregon package included in Fair Shot's People's Budget which has had a proven track record of keeping working Oregonians safe and stable.

86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment, against people who have fallen behind on their rent. There are close to 2000 eviction filings a month. The availability of rent assistance for tenants in the critical time of need will help ensure that landlords get paid, evictions are avoided, and most importantly, Oregonians stay housed.

Hardworking Oregonians like myself and my loved ones are struggling to make ends meet, facing eviction and homelessness as a result. It is ten times less expensive to prevent homelessness than it is to respond to it. The People's Budget investments will keep people housed, while we work towards long-term solutions to end our housing and affordability crisis.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregonians. We beg of you - stand with us now.

Sincerely,
amanda ligon

[Insert name]