



LatinoNetwork

410 NE 18th Ave
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To: Senator Jama and the Senate Housing and Development Committee

Re: Support 1530

Date: 2/12/2024

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We support SB 1530 because housing and the lack of affordable housing continues to be the #1 concern for our community members. This past fall we called nearly 2,000 community members who had engaged in Latino Network programs or donated to Latino Network and difficulty affording housing came up in the vast majority of the calls. In reviewing publicly available data from the Joint Office of Homeless Services in Multnomah County we found that eviction prevention was the most utilized support service the Latinx community engaged in. Investment in eviction prevention is a key support to reduce risk of homelessness for the Latinx community.

SB 1530 includes several ways to protect Oregonians from avoidable evictions and experiences of homelessness:

- \$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.
- \$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.
- \$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians.
- \$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.



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A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need. Every Oregonian should have access to a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Oregon is among the states with the most cost-burdened renters in the nation.¹ 86% of eviction filings are for nonpayment, against people who have fallen behind on their rent. There are close to 2,000 eviction filings a month.

Please act now to support SC 1530 - our communities cannot wait, too many neighbors are already experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

¹ [QR housing: Oregon among states with the most cost-burdened renters: Harvard \(koin.com\)](#)