



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

February 18, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Re: Support for SB1523A

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Andersen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jason Coulthurst, and I am writing on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) and the older adults and seniors we serve in support of SB 1523A. This bill is designed to help bridge the digital divide for tenants and remove unnecessary electronic barriers to accessing housing.

NWPP assists many older adults who were raised in a generation with limited exposure to digital technology. In my role, I frequently help clients complete online housing applications and support those who encounter technological barriers at various stages of their housing search. Many of the individuals who seek our assistance do not own computers, many lack internet or wifi connections, and rely on basic flip phones for communication. Allowing a paper or printable application option would promote greater self-sufficiency and independence for the seniors we serve and for those who maybe don't have the support of an agency such as NWPP.

For nearly 20 years I have worked with both seniors and housing providers. We appreciate that the amended version of this bill includes thoughtful adjustments that preserve flexibility for tenants while avoiding major problems for housing providers. We are grateful for the partnership with all those involved to identify a good solution.

This is a practical solution to a solvable problem. We hope this legislation provides a balanced and effective approach to narrowing the digital divide in housing access. We support SB 1523A and respectfully encourage you to pass it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Coulthurst

Jason Coulthurst, MS
Housing Access Manager
Northwest Pilot Project