

From: Eileen B
To: [Interim Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
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Good morning my name is Eileen Bidwell. I'm a board member with the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality, a nonprofit organization that operates and manages Our Place, a 24/7 program that offers temporary shelter and support for 38 families, 138 single women and 20 seniors experiencing homelessness in partnership with Washoe County. On most days the shelter is at capacity, leaving many women and families with no place to go, and many Our Place guests struggle to find permanent homes because their income is insufficient to afford rental housing in an extremely competitive market. According to the 2021 Annual Housing Progress Report from the Nevada Housing Division, rents in the Reno area have increased an average of 13% from 2020 to 2021, while wages have increased an average of 8%.

Housing instability and insecurity and the lack of access to housing are exacerbating our homeless crisis in Washoe County. One of the most impactful solutions is the creation of more affordable housing, especially permanent supportive housing.

I was a member of the Nevada Housing Coalition's ARPA Task Force, a multi-sector effort to create a plan to increase the supply of affordable housing across the state. The Governor's request that you have before you today is consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force and represents a giant step towards providing a safe, healthy, stable, accessible and affordable home for everyone in Nevada. I fully support the transfer of \$250 million to the Home Means Nevada Reserve for affordable housing.

Thanks you!