



*House Human Services and Housing*

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### **Oregon Food Bank supports banning no-cause evictions**

Oregon Food Bank holds people experiencing hunger at the center of all we do. The issues and concerns facing the people we serve guide our programmatic decisions and direct our public policy efforts.

More and more, we hear from our clients about the strong connection between housing and hunger. Our clients tell us about making the tough choice between paying for rent or for food and the inability to find a place to live. They tell us that the reason they visit food pantries and emergency meal sites is because of housing issues. Nearly a third of clients surveyed statewide said that affordable housing would make emergency food assistance less necessary for themselves and their families. Housing issues are driving many of our neighbors to experience hunger. In order to end hunger, we need to address housing.

Over the past few years, we've heard increasingly that no-cause evictions are common experiences for those we serve. Clients speak of the sudden destabilization no-cause evictions create and the inability to find a new home for their families in a very tight rental market. They tell us about the negative impacts of having their children suddenly switch schools and the impossible necessity of coming up with thousands of dollars to pay for a new place's first and last month rent. They speak of the difficulties finding and keeping a job and trying to support their families when faced with unstable housing. In the end, many speak of becoming homeless.

A client shared the following about her experience following a no-cause eviction: "it's hard to find something else because here it is in the middle of the month. You don't have \$2,000 or \$3,000 you need to move somewhere else. I've got four boys. I can't..."

Banning no-cause evictions provide housing stability for our most vulnerable community members. Seniors, people with disabilities and young families will be able to rest knowing that they will not lose their homes without just cause such as not paying their rent or legitimate, specific business reasons. Banning no cause evictions is an important step forward for our state to address issues of housing and hunger. Oregon Food Bank urges you to ban no-cause evictions.

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