

I am testifying because I am concerned that the proposed LC0018 is going to increase harm to tenants. I have some major concerns and questions about this proposal.

The bill allocates \$1.5million dollars for a Landlord Compensation Fund. This isn't enough to cover half of all the back rent owed in Oregon. What happens when this fund inevitably runs out?

Why is the Landlord allowed to CHOOSE to protect tenants or not? Can the landlord CHOOSE to not apply for the fund despite when one of their tenants sends in a declaration of hardship?

Why is LC0018 forcing tenants to sign a declaration of hardship against the risk of perjury in order to receive protections? This will be weaponized disproportionately against BIPOC and undocumented tenants. Instead, make protections guaranteed for all tenants by removing the declaration.

Why are we allowing landlords new opportunities to evict tenants during a pandemic? Remove the new loopholes that allow landlords to sell tenants units away from tenants, implement repairs that make homes "uninhabitable", or replace tenants with family members. Remove these loopholes that landlords will easily exploit to evict struggling tenants.

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--Cici Powers (they/them)