

December 11, 2021

To: Joint Interim Committee On The Second Special Session of 2021

From: Gabrielle Guedon, Executive Director, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: Support for Tenant Protections in Second Special Session of 2021 (LC 9)

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Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Breese-Iverson,  
Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC) is a statewide nonprofit organization made up of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and 18 local self-advocacy groups made up of people with IDD. We support people to advocate in all aspects of their lives. Housing is important to us because it helps us be members of our community and have a safe place to call our own.

Communities are stronger when all people participate. All people have gifts and weaknesses that mix together in a community to make everyone stronger. People with disabilities are just like everyone else, they just may need more assistance. It is important to have a community with people of different interests because we all lead our best lives together in community.

We support the tenant protections provisions in LC 9 in the Second Special Session of 2021 because it will build stability in the lives of people with IDD by providing protection from eviction while they wait for rental assistance to get to their landlord. When people with disabilities find a home that works for them, we are more successful. Our support stabilizes when our home stabilizes. This allows us to find jobs and connect with our communities.

We have members who have recently lost their homes because they were waiting for rent assistance. This destabilized their lives. They had to move out of their community to stay on friends' couches, change who was providing their support and find new jobs. They are traumatized from this experience – and lost most of their belongings.

**No one should be evicted for nonpayment while their rent assistance application is being processed.**