



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities

BETTER TOGETHER

December 11, 2021

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

From: Leslie Sutton, Executive Director, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

RE: Housing Eviction Impacts People with IDD (LC 9)

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

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities works to create change so that people with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. Two out of three of our Council members are people with IDD or family members of people with IDD.

Everyone deserves safe, stable and affordable housing. For people with IDD, housing is central to how they interact as a member of their community. It is their launch point to live, learn and work in our communities. Often, people with IDD depend on other people and community services to support them at home, at work and in their community. These services and supports take time and relationships to set up. When their housing destabilizes, so do those supports. Quickly, they can lose their home, their supports, their jobs and ultimately their community.

During the pandemic, people with IDD lost their support professionals, their homes and their jobs. They faced increased isolation and instability.

We know of people who applied for rent assistance, but lost their homes while they waited. They had to stay with friends, lost more of their support professionals and ultimately lost their job and their communities. This was incredibly traumatic for them, their families and their support workers. This trauma will remain with them the rest of their lives – and they continue to live it each day that they don't have stable housing.

We can do better for people with IDD. Tenant protections are a step in the right direction. People shouldn't be evicted while they wait for assistance. Many people with IDD have lower incomes and depend on rental units for their housing. Finding housing that works for their support needs is hard. There is a housing shortage for everyone, but for people with IDD, it is even more dire because there are even less units that may work for their particular support needs. It is vital to protect their housing today.