

TESTIMONY FOR L.C. 9

Co-Chairs Beyer and Fahey, Vice-Chairs Knopp, Wallan and Members of the Committee thank you for this opportunity to share my experiences with you today.

My name is Anna Lui-Esquivel.

My rental home is in State Senate District 22 (Oregon State Senator Lew Frederick's district) and in State House District 44 (Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek's district).

My husband and I own a couple of rental homes in the northern part of the city of Portland, Oregon. We are a member with MultiFamily NW. One of the single-family homes has been in the family. Kept my father-in-law's home after he passed and rented it out. We wanted to keep my father-in-law's home, so we decided to become a housing provider to continue owning the home and build our retirement on it. We are hoping to keep it and have it as our retirement income when can no longer work.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the state's response to help housing providers have been slow and it's not helping us. We do not get assistance from our mortgage holder when we tell them we cannot come up with our monthly mortgage payment due to COVID. It's more of a negative mark. Also, our county taxes continue to go up with no assistance related to COVID. Bills continue to keep coming.

As a single-family home owner and housing provider, we have a small amount of savings to cover repairs and when the renters move out. However, if the renters stay and continue not to pay their monthly rent, we are stuck to continue keeping everything in tack and drain what's left of our savings.

It puts a strain on both our renters and us housing providers' relationships.

Since having our home, we have never thought of selling until now. We are worried of the restrictions we are facing with what the state is placing on us housing providers. We are like small businesses. Housing providers are compassionate, but we do not have deep pockets and cannot wait for help.

I have several friends who own single-family homes and lived through nightmares of current renters not getting rent. One is trying to fix up their place to sell, and the others are considering selling.

Our state government needs to know the following:

We need accountability at our state housing agency.

The real crisis we are facing is at our state housing agency. This is about basic good governance. We need legislators to call for accountability to get emergency rental assistance out the door.

Every extension of the moratorium has made things more complicated and more uncertain.

Our legislature has intervened three times and each time they have made the situation more complicated and more uncertain for renters and housing providers.

Housing providers have been leveraged for more than 18 months.

Housing providers have been asked to provide the critical service of housing without compensation for more than 18 months, and to this day there is no guarantee of compensation for missed income because of the problems at our state agency.

The state needs to keep its promise and deliver rental assistance

Renters and housing providers have done their part, now it is time for the state to do its part. We demand assistance from the state as housing providers.

Thank you to the committee for taking their time on listening and reading our testimony for L.C. 9.