



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

February 25, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Campos and Morgan, and Members of the House Committee on Housing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2372 to eliminate landlords' ability to terminate residential tenancy without cause. My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon State Council. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 85,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

We believe that no Oregonian should have to face no-cause evictions, especially as Oregon experiences increasingly dangerous wildfire seasons and navigates a respiratory pandemic. Both disasters that have severely impacted the homes and lives of our members; many of whom are low-income frontline workers.

No-cause evictions are incredibly harmful and disruptive to families and workers. Our frontline workers should not have to worry about keeping a roof over their heads as they continue to do the work that is essential for our state to function. Unfortunately, these types of evictions continue to happen despite the eviction moratorium, which pushes our already vulnerable workers into precarious situations.

With everything going on, we believe that no-cause evictions are not only unjust, but also incredibly detrimental to our communities. We need to support our low-wage workers now more than ever. As such, SEIU urges you to please support HB 2372.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU, Oregon State Council