

Dear Legislators,

As a low income, single mother of two young children, homeownership is unfortunately out of my reach for the foreseeable future.

Given the considerable time, energy and expense that go into finding decent, affordable housing anywhere in the state of Oregon - but in particular in urban areas - the fear of having one's rental agreement terminated for "no cause" is by far the biggest downside to renting.

We all know that the rental unit isn't really ours, but can you imagine being forced to move out with only 30 days notice, with two young children (one of whom has special needs), when you have done nothing wrong?

And let's be honest, landlords have for years hidden behind no cause terminations to violate state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Landlord thinks your kids are too noisy? They can't legally evict you because family status is protected and the rights of children to play and make noise are well established under the law, so instead they kick you out for "no cause." Likewise, if they don't like somebody's new boyfriend or girlfriend who happens to be a person of color, they can tell them to leave "for no reason."

No cause terminations are an incredible source of fear and uncertainty for tenants, and provide a get out of jail free card with which landlords can discriminate and violate the law.

And whatever landlords and their lobbyists might argue, there is simply no good reason for no cause terminations to exist - landlords are well protected under current law and there are ample other types of notices that can serve a landlord's purpose without being an unreasonable and constant threat to tenants.

Landlords should have to say why they want tenants to leave - if the reason is legal, they have nothing to fear, and nothing to lose.

Please do the right thing for the renters in this state, and vote in the affirmative to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Soorya Bateman
Eugene, OR