

**SISTERS
OF THE
ROAD**



Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
Re: SB799

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

My name is Rhea Hannon, and I work at Sisters of the Road in Portland. At Sisters of the Road, we see firsthand the effects that sudden evictions have on individuals and families. In many cases, these evictions cause temporary or long-term houselessness, and serve to further food and housing insecurity in the wider Portland area.

Oregon is in the midst of a housing crisis. Rents and food costs are rising while wages are not. Houselessness and hunger have increased dramatically since 2020. Evictions regularly occur without fair representation or notification. In order to halt this rapid intensification, immediate steps must be taken to protect Oregonians.

SB799 would take an important step towards protecting families and individuals being taken advantage of by inequitable housing policies. In addition, it would protect families and individuals on the verge of houselessness from losing a basic human right.

In 2020 and 2021, protections were enacted to prevent the evictions of thousands of Oregonians due to widespread increased financial pressures from the pandemic. Many of those protections had expiration dates, despite the fact that the pandemic and its effects are far from over. Without the initially enacted support, many families and individuals are experiencing worsened conditions and even greater financial pressures. Bills like SB799 and the proposed Eviction Representation for All in Multnomah County are vital first steps toward supporting Oregonians across the state, and lessening the severity of the ongoing housing crisis.

I urge you to vote yes on SB799, as a means of preventing unsafe, inequitable evictions.

Sincerely,
Rhea Hannon