

Hello, My name is Sandra Shotridge and I live in Eugene. I am an Oregon renter here to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. Too many people like me are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package to increase rent assistance, limit rate increases, and increase the data available about Oregon's rental market.

I am a survivor of domestic violence. I'm also a woman of color. In spite of a nationwide movement for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, I fell through so many cracks it all seemed like a horrible dream. I get why so many homeless people use drugs and alcohol to excess, but not me. I know this community very well and jumped through every hoop I ever used to help people avoid evictions, apply for grants if I thought they qualified, applied at shelters that I qualified for but nothing helped, nothing worked. Because I'm so connected to my community, because I've helped so many organizations and people from falling through the cracks, through various non profits and the educational system, until I was able to find a place of my own to rent, I relied on friends and a few strangers who've moved on to become extended family. Because I helped out where I could while looking for a place to rent without drama born from drinking or drugging, I'm welcome to visit these generous and kind people that I've developed lasting friendships with.

Thank you again for hearing this important bill and allowing us to speak. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on SB 799 and the Homelessness Prevention Package.