

Submitter: Laura Ray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

I was an Oregon renter for several years, and I am here to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. Too many people that I know and throughout our state are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this common-sense 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 know people in Oregon who are working hard but have survived difficult circumstances and trauma, and they are struggling to make their rent payment from month to month. Sometimes they have to move (yet again) because they can't afford it, and they have to try to find another place with hopefully enough space for themselves and their family. I see others EVERY DAY who are sleeping on the streets of Eugene, unable to afford a safe place to live indoors, somehow surviving outdoors through the winter. These are our neighbors. How did they get there? Likely many were evicted from their homes at some point in the near or distant past.

Thank you for hearing this important bill. I urge you to listen to people like me and vote yes on SB 799 and the Homelessness Prevention Package. In this crucial turning point in our society, we must lift up those with the fewest resources so that we can all be lifted up together.