

Submitter: Gabriela Saldana-Lopez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB799

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee, My name is Gabriela Saldana-Lopez and I live in East Portland, Oregon. I am a renter in Oregon and I currently sit on the David Douglas school board. Today, I am speaking in support of Senate Bill 799.

Evictions in Oregon are increasing ten fold in our state at alarming historical rates, increasing houselessness and threatening housing security for hundreds of thousands of tenants across Oregon. In order to mitigate the threat of widespread evictions and prevent houselessness, we need reasonable reforms that give tenants a real chance to stay in their homes and implement some of the lessons we learned from the pandemic. That's why I'm asking for your support of Senate Bill 799.

I grew up in South East Portland to immigrant parents. I watched my parents work hard in multiple service jobs to make ends meet. My family felt the impact of the rise of rent that caused us to move from apartment to apartment. Many times we lived in hazardous conditions for what my family was barely able to afford. This experience has led me to do some tenant organizing in recent years. I know this is still a reality that many students and families in our district face.

One issue is having only 72 hours to evict their homes which leave little to no room to be intentional with what their next housing situation is. This leads to folks moving into whatever they can find, settling for an apartment they can't long term afford, having to couch surf with family, or even having to live on the street. Many things haven't changed since I was a child but you have the ability to create change with your support of this bill.

Senate Bill 799 will give tenants a chance to fight unjust evictions and time to get rent assistance when needed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Saldana-Lopez
Community Organizer
David Douglas School Board Vice Chair
She/Her