

Isabela Villarreal
RE: Strong support for SB 799

January 31st, 2023



Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, members of the committee,

My name is Isabela Villarreal and I am the Policy and Communications Director at Next Up Action Fund. Our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. As an organization that builds political power and strong, effective leadership pipelines for diverse young people, our work and our communities are greatly impacted by evictions and houselessness. **Thus, we are writing in strong support of SB 799, which will reduce evictions and prevent houselessness.**

We strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as quickly as possible as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package that includes \$100 million in rent new rent assistance, SB 611 / HB 2733 to limit the exorbitant and abusive rent increases too many landlords are imposing this year, and the Rental Market Data Bill for greater transparency into this essential component of Oregon's housing availability.

Eviction, displacement, and houselessness are particularly difficult for young people and students. Oregon already has one of the highest student homelessness rates in the country. 23,765 Oregon students experienced homelessness at some point in 2022. These students' circumstances put them at an incredible disadvantage through no fault of their own. They are unable to adequately study, adequately learn, and wholly engage in their education. They are 27% less likely to graduate from high school than housed students.

Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and houselessness response. As Gov. Kotek and legislative leadership commit to increasing the housing supply and rehousing our houseless neighbors, we must also ensure that the people who are housed today don't end up on the streets themselves.

The legislature must take urgent action to address this crisis. Please pass SB 799 out of the committee.

Thank you,

Isabela Villarreal
Policy and Communications Director