



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

January 31, 2023

RE: **Support for SB 799 – Eviction Reform**

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Vilhauer and I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the 24 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates we serve, I am writing to express Habitat for Humanity of Oregon's strong support of SB 799 – Eviction Reform.

We 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, and the Rental Market Data Bill for greater transparency into this essential component of Oregon's housing availability.

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

Hardworking Oregonians from all corners of the state need your assistance to maintain stable housing during the winter months. **No one should be evicted for nonpayment while their rent assistance application is being processed. We must act now to prevent the unnecessary and tragic generational harm that comes from eviction and displacement.**

Thank you for your dedication, service and this important work,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon M. Vilhauer".

Shannon M. Vilhauer, Executive Director