

Submitter: Meredith Dunlap

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

-I am a small owner of rental property. We had a terrible time during the Covid pandemic. Some renters needlessly took advantage of the government to not pay and we had to make payments for a long time before we were grudgingly repaid over the next year or two. We were unable to raise our rents even though property taxes and utilities continued to rise. Our tenants were having trouble staying employed and managing on their income. They still are having trouble. This bill does nothing to assist them nor nothing to assist us. I do not know who is being served.

We share the Senate's concern about our fellow citizens who are unable to pay their rent. However Senate Bill 799 does nothing to provide assistance for these folks. The effect of the bill is to place the financial burden for assisting low income tenants from the state to the landlord. This is a burden we share in common so the solution should be shared as well by everybody, not just the landlords. No one wants to build multiple occupancy units in Oregon because of rent control on one hand and eviction control on the other. "Even a small child understands the difficulty of getting the toothpaste out while one is squeezing both ends of the tube."

This bill sets up a lose lose situation. No governmental assistance for the tenant and no protection for the landlord. You are making the assumption that the tenant is applying for rental assistance from the state. There is nothing in this bill that indicates that the tenant must apply for assistance. You are transferring that responsibility to the landlord. During the pandemic it was not easy to apply for help by the tenant nor for reimbursement by the rental property owner.

My husband and I are 85 years old, living on a fixed income, and our rental income constitutes the bulk of our retirement income. Please help us by providing financial assistance to the people we are all trying to help.

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Respectfully,

Carl and Mitsy Dunlap-