



January 31, 2023

Re: Support for SB 799 to reduce evictions and prevent homelessness

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 799. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally-specific organizations dedicated to collective action for racial justice.

Many of our coalition's members are service providers who work tirelessly to help individuals and families access and stay in housing through rent assistance, wraparound services, and other supports needed to maintain stable homes. But unfairly rushed eviction timelines can push vulnerable households into homelessness, a devastating experience with intergenerational impacts. Once a household has an eviction on their record, accessing housing becomes even more challenging, requiring significant time and resources to find a new home.

Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Pacific Islander Oregonians are all more likely to rent their homes as a result of income and wealth disparities and other systemic inequities. This is borne out by national research showing that on average, landlords filed evictions against Black women renters at twice the rate of or higher than white renters in Oregon and in 16 other states, according to the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and Data Analytics team.

With SB 799, we have the opportunity to address this disproportionate impact by establishing fairer timelines to resolve nonpayment issues, requiring landlords to accept rent payments before a final judgment, and giving renters more time to access rent assistance. These timelines helped reduce displacement during the pandemic, and while the worst impacts of the pandemic may have subsided, a recent piece from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis [notes that Oregon's renter families continue to struggle with housing costs](#), and [more than half of Oregon renters](#) don't have enough residual income left over after paying rent to afford other essentials.

In addition to supporting SB 799, we urge you to swiftly pass the entire Homelessness Prevention Package. We need significant increases in rent assistance, limits on extreme rent increases (SB 611/HB 2733), and the Rental Market Data Bill so our local communities can understand their rental housing needs. We appreciate your work to create housing stability in Oregon and ask that you continue this leadership by passing SB 799.

Thank you,

Jenny Lee, Deputy Director

Coalition of Communities of Color