



February 14, 2023

Re: Support for HB 2001 to reduce evictions and prevent homelessness

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

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. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2001 to address Oregon's housing crisis. This legislation demonstrates lawmakers' genuine and shared commitment to preventing homelessness and increasing housing supply in Oregon. We appreciate that this bill is bipartisan, bicameral, and collaborative.

Most notably, we are writing in support of Sections 14–26 in HB 2001 to amend Oregon's eviction statutes to help families remain in their homes. 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.

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.

With these provisions, we have the opportunity to prevent evictions through reasonable provisions including establishing fairer timelines to resolve nonpayment issues, informing tenants on how to find rent and legal assistance, and dismissing eviction cases if payment is made before the final judgment.

Passing HB 2001 will improve our ability to prevent tenants from unnecessarily falling into homelessness due to unreasonable eviction statutes. Thank you for acting with urgency to address homelessness in Oregon and ask that you continue this leadership by passing HB 2001.

Thank you,
Jenny Lee, Deputy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color