

Submitter: Alfredo C
On Behalf Of: HB2001
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB2001
RE: In support of HB 2001

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

My name is Alfredo C., I am a resident of the city of Hillsboro. I am writing in support of the Stable Homes for Oregon Families bill. We all deserve a safe home. The well-being of our neighbors and our communities depends on this basic need being met. Rent increases and evictions have disproportionately affected minorities. An ACLU study shows that black women in Oregon are twice as likely to face eviction. Minority Oregonians are the majority of renters due to existing barriers in the housing and employment system that prevent them from being able to own their own home. The average monthly evictions have increased by 43% compared to 2019. My wife, 2 children, and I have lived in a low-income apartment complex for a few years. I work full time and my wife does occasional or seasonal jobs. Due to the high cost of living, my wife was forced to work full time. This has compromised our ability to continue qualifying for this housing. A job, which should be a reason for joy and progress for my family, has become a threat, since we would not have enough money to move to another place. The cost of rent is so high that 100% of my wife's salary and at least 30% of mine would go to pay the rent. Fortunately we have the opportunity to pass this package of Homelessness Prevention measures in Oregon that will allow people in need to access rental assistance. I would reform evictions to stop evictions from escalating and offer a safe period that prevents landlords from refusing to receive payments when people get the money or rental assistance is approved. It would put reasonable limits on rents so that people can pay for their housing and a registry would be established to know the exact number of rental units. Low-income families like mine should be able to work to improve our family's living conditions. Instead, we work to pay the rent, while now we spend less than before on food and other basic necessities. I ask for your support of this 2023 Oregon Homelessness Prevention Package! Sincerely, Alfredo C.