
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

February 14, 2023

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

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2001, which is an important element of the response to our housing crisis. The bill ensures a focus on youth homelessness prevention, provides innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and contains critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. We appreciate the bipartisan and bicameral work that has been done to bring this bill forward.

At Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, we know that stable housing is a social determinant of health. Unjust evictions and extreme rent increases cause immense financial hardship on working families that often require them to deplete their savings, force them into homelessness, and/or send them into a spiral of poverty. Even if a family does not lose their home, large rent increases mean families spend more of their income on housing, and less on other basic necessities like healthcare. Many Oregonians are living on the edge financially. [According to the state economist, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over](#) for food, medicine, and other basic necessities.

Moreover, these practices disproportionately impact young people, families of color, and communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, and healthcare. On average, landlords filed evictions against Black women renters at double the rate of or higher than their white renters in Oregon and in 16 other states, according to the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and Data Analytics team.

Oregon's housing crisis is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. We are particularly writing to urge support of Sections 14-26 of HB 2001, which contain essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction. These Sections of the bill:

- Expand the time after a notice of nonpayment before being taken to court from 72 hours to 10 days.
- Provide that nonpayment eviction notices and court forms should include information about where to find rent assistance and legal assistance, and provide access to translation of these forms.
- Amend first appearance and trial timelines to ensure that tenants have a greater chance of finding help before their hearing.
- Provide that an eviction case will be dismissed if payment is made before final judgment.
- Make the default judgment process more fair.
- Streamline the eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a procedural barrier to future housing stability.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon supports HB 2001 because housing affects health outcomes and is an underlying, contributing factor of health inequities in Oregon. Planned Parenthood patients rely on stable homes in order to live healthy, successful lives, in which they are able to access the healthcare they need and take care of their families in safe, sustainable communities. We hope that you will join us in support of SB 799.

Sincerely,
Cassie Purdy
Political Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon