



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

February 15, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter, Chair
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Support for HB 2001**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony, on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project, in strong support of HB 2001 which focuses 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.

Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) is a social service agency with over five decades of experience in providing housing stabilization services to older adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Multnomah County.

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 housing stability and minimize the threat of rapid eviction. One of the most notable sections being the reinstatement of the 10-day nonpayment notice period before being taken to court. This pandemic-era protection was critical to maintaining NWPP clients' housing stability, many of whom would have otherwise lost their housing.

With nonpayment eviction rates up approximately 43 percent from pre-pandemic numbers,¹ it is clear that we must act now to ensure Oregon's eviction process will no longer be a fast-track towards displacement and homelessness.

¹ Evicted in Oregon (December 2022), Lisa K. Bates, PhD, et al. <https://www.evictedinoregon.com/numbers-at-a-glance>

HB 2001 is responsive to the crisis Oregonians are faced with due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability. Thank you to the legislature and to Governor Kotek for your fast action on this package.

Sincerely,

Laura Golino de Lovato
Executive Director
Northwest Pilot Project