



House Housing and Homelessness Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 12th, 2024

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

SETA is a non-profit, public service organization dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide free community resources, including our free Tenant Hotline, and we directly serve about 250 renter households every month through combinations of several programs.

While we support the majority of the bill as written, SETA strongly opposes the -1 amendment: Removal of rent deferment due to hospitalization.

Medical events that require hospitalization, especially unexpected medical events, remove people from their daily lives. The -1 amendment is a fair tool with a defined timeframe to allow tenants a chance to catch their breath after a medical event and will go far in preventing further predatory financial practices.

Hospitalization often comes with significant financial burdens, including medical bills and potential loss of income if the individual is unable to work during their hospital stay.

With the astronomically high cost of medical care and with the knowledge that currently, 86% of eviction filings are already for nonpayment of rent, the removal of -1 amendment will ensure that hospitalized tenants will be on the direct path to homelessness. This is especially true for tenants from at-risk vulnerable communities; Including seniors/elders, families with children, and tenants with chronic disabilities

We strongly urge you to pass remove the -1 amendment and pass HB 4063 as amended. If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfildeneugentenantassociation.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".

Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association