

Submitter: dyvisha gordon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

My name is dyvisha, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2305. Now is not the time to roll back protections for renters. How does this bill prevent displacement? How does it prevent homelessness? It doesn't.

We are in a crisis. People are witnessing the kidnapping and forced displacement of their neighbors. The cost of basic necessities—food, healthcare, and housing—continues to climb, pushing more families to the brink. People are chronically ill, and their conditions worsen each time they are forced to move. We have long been in a public health crisis, and without stable housing, these crises will only deepen.

Not to mention, Oregon is already experiencing a high number of evictions. In 2023, over 24,800 eviction cases were filed in the state's circuit and justice courts—meaning that approximately one in every twenty-five renter households faced eviction proceedings. This is a sharp increase from 2022, when about 20,800 cases were filed, affecting one in thirty renter households. This trend is not slowing down, and weakening protections will only make it worse.

If this bill passes, families, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income Oregonians will be left even more vulnerable to skyrocketing rents, evictions, and housing insecurity at a time when they need stability the most. The consequences of eviction are devastating—once a family loses their home, the road back to stability is steep, often leading to homelessness, job loss, and permanent displacement from their communities.

I know the other side will say, "We'll offer concessions, reduce security deposits, or alleviate other moving costs." But what good is that when people still can't afford the rent? What good is it to vacate a struggling person or family from a unit when no one can afford to live in it? I wonder how quickly they felt these expensive and dusty vacant units.

We need to recognize that housing is a necessity, not a commodity. For a so-called progressive state, this bill is a regressive move. Our responsibility should be to strengthen protections and safeguard against the cycle of displacement and homelessness—not strip them away. I urge you to stand with Oregon renters and reject HB 2305.

Thank you for your time and consideration.