

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I hope I'm not too late in expressing my support for SB 873, the Eviction Expungement Bill.

I am a college-educated, gainfully employed married woman. I have some privilege and some safety nets in my life. However, between the bad luck of graduating university straight into the 2009 recession, and the somewhat sudden lack of affordable housing in Clackamas County since that time, I realize I am only a few small setbacks away from eviction. If I am ever so unlucky as to face an injury and a car breakdown at the same time, say, then eviction would be on my immediate horizon.

And, I'm lucky. Many hardworking Oregonian families don't have the privilege and safety nets that I do. Too many people—smart people, educated people, people, hard-working people; people with two jobs, parents, teachers— live precariously close to eviction. In fact, I learned recently that evictions and unemployment are the top two reasons for homelessness in Clackamas County—well, well above causes such as mental health struggles or substance abuse issues.

Eviction haunts you for the rest of your life, almost like a felony conviction. There are so many innocent, unlucky ways that me and my neighbors could face an eviction. Everyone deserves a second chance.

Please (please.) support SB 873.

Thank you,
Chelsea Lowrie
Oregon City