

Testimony on SB 330

Good afternoon, Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tia Politi, and I am the President of the Rental Owners Association of Lane County. I am asking you to support SB 330.

Over the past year, housing providers have shouldered a sometimes-staggering burden of unpaid rent. But the bill is coming due, and we need more solutions to keep people in their homes.

The rent assistance offered by HB 4401 is one part of that solution. Assistance funds flowing through our community action agencies is another part of the solution, but these are not enough.

One of my renters, a single mom, has fallen behind on her rent and utilities. She had some major medical bills to pay. She applied for rent assistance, but was denied because she makes just a little too much to qualify.

She's truly hurting. This bill would allow me to forgive those past amounts owing and help her get a fresh start, away from the specter of debt hanging over her head.

Because the credit will be spaced out over several years, the impact on the state budget should be modest. Opponents say it will be too big of an impact, but what about the impact to us and our renters if this doesn't pass?

This credit will give renters the help they desperately need while allowing us to eventually recoup some of the financial losses imposed upon us by this devastating pandemic. Please vote yes on SB 330.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Tia Politi