

Hello,

My name is Otto {they/them}, I'm writing my testimony in support of a ban of no cause evictions outlines in HB 2372.

Since October, I've been being constructively evicted from the only home I have lived in in Portland. My first home, and hopefully not my last. Since October I've been harassed, intimidated, and had services severely diminished. I've been lied to, and shown falsified documents.

This included a no cause termination of my rental agreement, which thankfully was invalid due to the Multnomah County eviction Moratorium in place at the time. I am no longer protect by this ordinance and await a new termination with great fear.

I have already seen my future through one of my neighbors who, as of November was unable to pay her rent due to employment unavailability. Because of this she was successfully "terminated" with the invalid termination. Even though this no cause eviction did not involve her failed rental payment, her decision not to fight it was informed by that factor. Unable to pay rent currently, she was also unable to find another apartment, and was near to being homeless. I spoke with her and know she would've stayed in her home, had the landlords not served the termination. The only thing keeping my 40 year old neighbor off the streets was her welcoming mother.

I am facing a similar future. While a no cause eviction sounds as though it might be less harmful, the reality is far different. These evictions do not exist in a vacuum separate from other ongoing situations. Not only is my apartment being converted into an Airbnb, taking it off the housing market during a housing crisis, but I have been unemployed since March 15. When I do receive unemployment, due to my status as a student just prior to the pandemic, I am awarded the Bare Minimum available. Though this unemployment is life saving, it hasn't allowed me to save for the future, and applications from unemployed housing seekers are not being accepted. I do not have family Oregon, and I do not have a job. Where will I be housed next?

I am not alone in this no cause/high consequence game. No cause evictions will still have dire effects, for myself, my remaining neighbors, and many across Oregon. I urge you to act to help Oregonians remain safely housed during these multiple crises.

Please support HB 2372

Thank you for your time,  
Otto Yunker  
{they/them}  
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