

Submitter: Nancy Ashworth
On Behalf Of: Eugene Tenant Alliance
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB799

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today in writing. My name is Nancy Ashworth, I was born and raised in Eugene and I am a life long Oregon renter. I cannot be here because of work obligations but need to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. Too many people like me are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package to increase rent assistance, limit rate increases, and increase the data available about Oregon's rental market.

I am on Social Security and work part time, My monthly income barely allows me to pay my current rent every 4 weeks, but it didn't use to. I have been in my apartment now for almost 20 years. Back then, rents and availability of housing wasn't the hopeless condition it is today. People had a wide variety of choices not to mention rent prices. But now, all that has changed. When you have to consider the greed and exorbitant price of rents, the high price of food, the non stop increase of utilities, prescriptions and/or god forbid, if you are stuck with a mandatory car payment, the money can only go so far. Like so many other low income individuals, families and senior citizens, I do not have the earning power to pay the rents landlords are demanding anymore. Always over the 30% of my income - which by the way, 30% is still too steep for many of us. Theses annual increases which Oregon landlords are allowed of 9.9% or higher (I heard someone thinks it's a good idea to raise it to 14.6%) It is just greed and will quickly add to the homeless population. Also, please stop the 72 hour senseless evictions . It is 2023 now, those types of evictions are out of date and draconian. Doesn't this committee have any true sense of care, compassion and decency to the low income and vulnerable citizens of Oregon to add laws and fix what is going on? Don't turn your backs on this problem or "save" it for another day. That day is today.

Thank you again for hearing this important bill and allowing us to speak. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on SB 799 and the Homelessness Prevention Package.

Nancy Ashworth
Eugene, Oregon