

I oppose SB 799. The bill does not address providing needed assistance to renters nor address barriers needed to create more housing. The bill is flawed since nonpayment for any reason would allow a tenant to stay on the premises while the application for assistance moves through the review process. Qualified tenants should have ample access to government aid before rent cannot be paid. Why should housing providers forgo revenue to provide a necessary social need? This financial burden will divert resources away from keeping housing communities well maintained and result in less rental housing.

The Covid era restrictions need to be tabled and focus needs to be redirected to providing support for families in need and realistic strategies for creating more housing.