

Submitter: Cindy Borders

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

Subject: Tenant support for SB 799

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

My name is Cindy Borders and I live in Oregon City. I am a renter testifying in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. Too many people are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package.

When I think about receiving a 72 hour eviction notice, I feel panic. During COVID when my work slowed down, I was lucky enough to receive rental assistance. I'm a criminal defense investigator, so I know how to navigate bureaucracy and the process was slow and challenging, even for me. There is so much demand that legal clinics are backed up. Often evictions aren't people's fault, they just happened so fast. The protections and extended timeline allowed in SB 799 is a necessity.

I work with families facing a number of stressors and barriers to housing. Data from the state economist shows that over half of Oregon renters don't have money left over for basic necessities. When people who are struggling get evicted, it's really hard to come back from. With my clients, I am seeing this in real time. And evictions are not happening equally. Our Black and Hispanic neighbors continue to bear the brunt of the worst impact.

We need to prioritize keeping people in their homes and start to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Our unhoused neighbors aren't just a homeless statistic—they are people, families, and stories. I urge you to vote yes on SB 799 and the Homelessness Prevention Package.

Sincerely,
Cindy in Oregon City