

Submitter: Elizabeth Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Beth Walker and I live in Milwaukie. I am an Oregon renter here to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. I have faced the risk of homelessness multiple times, and too many Oregonians can say the same. Too many people continue to be 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.

As a child, my family faced housing instability due to loss of income. My father was evicted multiple times and this placed an even heavier burden on my mother trying to ensure that her four kids had stable housing while sharing custody with her ex-husband. Eventually my mother was able to regain full custody, however my father remains homeless more than 7 years later. During this period of our lives, it was extremely difficult for all of us children to focus on our schoolwork, etc. As kids, we had to work as much as possible to ensure my mother maintained housing. I hope we can all work together to create a future in which children do not have to help their parents pay rent/worry about becoming homeless.

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.