

Student Support for SB 799

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

My name is Kendy Schwing. I'm an organizer in training with Oregon AFSCME, as well as a current student attending the University of Oregon in Eugene. I am writing to you today in support of the renewal of SB 799, as a crucial step toward addressing the housing crisis in our state.

As a student, I have seen the effects of the housing crisis firsthand and the toll it takes on individuals in our communities. Eviction, displacement, and homelessness are particularly difficult for young people and students. Oregon already has one of the highest student homelessness rates in the country. In total, 23,765 Oregon students are reported to have experienced homelessness at some point in 2022. I know friends and classmates who have struggled with housing insecurity and have had to make difficult choices between paying rent and buying food or textbooks. I myself and others have had to donate plasma to secure enough money to afford rent in Eugene.

The limits on exorbitant rent increases and greater transparency in the rental market through SB 799 will provide much-needed support for those struggling with housing insecurity and help limit another stressor placed on Oregonian students. Postponing eviction proceedings while rental assistance is pending will ensure that fewer students experience homelessness and the stress it causes.

I urge you to support SB 799 and take action to address the housing crisis in Oregon. By working together, we can create a brighter future for all residents in our state and ensure that everyone has a safe and stable place to call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kendy Schwing