



TO: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
FR: Ira Cuello-Martinez, PCUN
RE: Support for SB 799 to reduce evictions and prevent homelessness

January 30, 2023

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

PCUN's mission is to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families in Oregon by building community, increasing Latinx representation in elections, and policy advocacy on both the national and state levels.

Farmworkers and Latinx working families often face housing instability due to the increasing rent rates. During the pandemic, the most commonly sought-out resource by our members was financial support to help cover their expenses. Despite being deemed essential workers, many farmworkers cannot afford to pay their rent and they rely on multi-family housing situations.

People are living on the edge financially. According to state economist Josh Lehner, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over for food, medicine, and basic necessities.¹ When people on the edge get evicted, it is all too easy to fall into homelessness and housing instability.

We believe that SB 799 is a fair approach that gives people who are behind on their rent a reasonable amount of time to catch up and, if they need it, locate, apply and receive rent assistance. Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and homelessness response.

PCUN urges you to support SB 799.

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Policy and Advocacy Director
PCUN

¹ <https://twitter.com/lehnerjw/status/1602829423988068352>