

Testimony in Support of SB 799 — Requires residential landlords to extend notice periods for terminations of tenancy based on nonpayment of rent and to include additional notices.

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

My name is Aishiki Nag, and I'm a current senior at Tigard High School. I have also had the opportunity to work on local government boards, and during my time I have seen the rising concerns about rent increases and the impact it has on the entire community. Community members in Tigard are concerned about the rising cost of living, as well as the impact of homelessness in the community. However, to prevent homelessness in the first place is important by preventing housing insecurity. Which is why I urge you to strongly support SB 799.

Housing insecurity impacts every community across Oregon, especially our most vulnerable, BIPOC communities, youth and older individuals. It is important to give renters as many rights as possible, to limit the exploitation. By passing SB 799, it would amend the laws allowing fast-track eviction timelines and so that people can access services that will prevent them from losing their homes.

According to the 2022 Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Report, it marked Oregon as having the highest rate of families living unsheltered: 1,991 Oregonians in houseless families – which is 59% of people in families experiencing houselessness – are living unsheltered. For students living in an environment where they have to worry about the safety of their families, and the rising cost of housing, it gets harder and harder to prioritize school. When it comes to equitable education and focusing on student's well-being it is important to also ensure stability within housing. Considering the previous points, I would strongly urge the passing of SB 799.

Respectfully,
Aishiki Nag