



Date: January 31, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Oregon NOW

Re: Support for HB 799

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

**Oregon National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW)** is submitting this letter in support of HB 799 to reduce evictions and prevent homelessness as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package that includes \$100 million in rent new rent assistance, SB 611 / HB 2733.

Oregon NOW's priority issues include:

- **Economic justice:** People are living on the edge financially. When people on the edge get evicted, it is all too easy to fall into homelessness. COVID-19 caused unemployment that peaked at 14% and left renters without work for long periods of time.
- **Racial justice:** On average, landlords filed evictions against Black women renters at double the rate of or higher than their white renters in Oregon and in 16 other states, according to the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and Data Analytics team. Communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, health care, opportunity and wealth are paying an unfair price for Oregon's unfair and rushed eviction laws.
- **Ending domestic violence against women:** Housing instability and homelessness increases the risk of experiencing violence and abuse. 83% of domestic violence survivors entering shelters identified "finding housing I can afford" as a need.

Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and homelessness response. As Gov. Kotek and legislative leadership commit to increasing the housing supply and rehousing our homeless neighbors, we must also ensure that the people who are housed today don't end up on the streets themselves.

Respectfully,

Kim Critelli  
President, Oregon NOW  
Legislative Co-Chair, Oregon NOW

Nancy Cook  
Legislative Co-Chair, Oregon NOW