

Submitter: Linda Berg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

January 30, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Housing and Development Committee
900 Court Street, NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

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

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 799 which will help those renters who find themselves in the position to lose their homes through eviction because they are unable to meet their financial obligations.

I am aware that the demand for housing assistance and advocacy from 2020 to the present has skyrocketed to at least 250 cases in the Eugene/Springfield area. According to the state economist, more that 50 percent of Oregon renters do not have sufficient funds for food, medicine, and other necessities after paying their rent.

We all know that prices have sharply increased during and now after the Covid pandemic. While the Federal government has provided some financial relief on a short-term basis, what is needed is for the states to now step up and redress unequal and unfair rental practices that have been allowed to creep into the Oregon rental economy. Communities are facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs and healthcare and now renters are faced with paying rents that have risen to almost unsustainable levels.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as one of Governor Kotek's larger remedies to address higher

rental rates.

Sincerely,
Linda A. Berg
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Eugene, OR 97401