

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Evelyn Silverman, I'm writing today as both an Oregon resident and as staff person at the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2001, which is an important element of the response to our housing crisis. I appreciate that this bill is bipartisan and bicameral, I also appreciate the intense work that has gone into getting to this point.

I have not personally experienced an eviction however I have had to find a creative way to live within my means, to not go into debt. I work a full time job at the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette through my Temp Agency, Boly:Welch. I have become a full-time pet/housesitter which provides me with a roof over my head about 290 days of the year. I pay a friend to live at her home an average of 6-7 nights a month when I don't have a booking. I pay a reduced rent so I don't have to live in my car or an Airbnb. If I had not created this solution, I would be paying an exorbitant rent and most likely have credit card debt to pay for food, utilities, transportation, etc., or I might be just a few paychecks away from homelessness myself. Instead, I live like a nomad, with a permanent address that I only live at a few times a month.

I work as a temporary employee for the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, which has allowed me to work with the housing team to prevent about 150+ evictions last year.

I am particularly writing to urge support of Sections 14-26 of HB 2001, which contain essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction. These Sections of the bill:

- Expand the time after a notice of nonpayment before being taken to court from 72 hours to 10 days.
- Provide that nonpayment eviction notices and court forms should include information about where to find rent assistance and legal assistance and provide access to translation of these forms.
- Amend first appearance and trial timelines to ensure that tenants have a greater chance of finding help before their hearing.
- Provide that an eviction case will be dismissed if payment is made before final judgment.
- Make the default judgment process fairer.
- Streamline the eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a procedural barrier to future housing stability.

In closing, passage of HB 2001 will enhance my organizations capacity to respond to youth homelessness, create innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and provide reasonable and critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. The bill is landmark legislation and reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are living with due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

Thank you to the legislature and to Gov. Kotek for your fast action on this package to help our communities respond to the crisis of homelessness and to improve stability and safety for individuals and families across the state.

Thank you for hearing this important bill and for considering my testimony. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on HB 2001.

Sincerely,

*Evelyn Silverman*

Pet Sitter

House Sitter

Nomad

Tax Payer in the State of Oregon