

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

My name is Thuy Bechard and I live in Gresham, Oregon. I am an Oregon renter (or other category) submitting testimony in favor of HB 2001 to help people avoid homelessness and give more people who are living unsheltered the opportunity for safe and stable housing.

*I am a single mother of five sons, I get no child support and no food benefits. I make a good hourly wage at my employment. However, I have two adult sons with mental illness and no access to care except for medication to treat symptoms. They aren't able to get any therapy and even then therapy is hit and miss because let's face it. Not all therapists are helpful. I moved into a 3 bedroom with one of my sons as my roommate but his decline in mental health has made it very difficult for him to maintain a job which has made it hard for me to pay rent, bills and buy groceries. I'm thousands of dollars in credit card debt and working side jobs only to make rent. All food goes on credit. In reality, I don't qualify for the townhouse I am renting at \$2138 per month and yet, I am trapped in a lease. When that lease is over, I fear I won't have the money to move or I would have to live in a cheaper place that is not taken care of nor safe for my children to be. I don't qualify for any benefits because in the eyes of the law, I make too much money. Last year my rent was \$1865 and was increased by \$273 per month with a 15 month lease. The sad truth is that I don't qualify for anything that I can afford that would give my children safety and stability. I'm faced with having to move to another state, if I'm not able to provide for my family here in Oregon.*

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.

In Gratitude,

Thuy Bechard