

Submitter: Cindy Borders

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

Thank you to the committee for hearing HB 2001 and including eviction reform in the bill and services for you.

I am a renter testifying in favor of HB 2001 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. High rents and rapid eviction timelines affect all working people. Too many people are at risk for homelessness without state action.

My neighbor works as a loan officer for a major bank. A couple of months ago her sister, who lives out of state, became very ill. She went to be with her sister and missed a week of work (she did not have time built up to take off paid). Because she missed one week of work, she did not have enough money to cover her rent and received a 72-hour notice, as well as a \$75 late fee for her rent not being paid on time. While she was able to borrow from family and pay her rent, now she lives with the constant fear of missing work meaning an eviction.

When I think about receiving a 72 hour eviction notice, I feel panic. During COVID when my work slowed down, I was lucky enough to receive rental assistance. I'm a criminal defense investigator, so I know how to navigate bureaucracy and the process was slow and challenging, even for me. There is so much demand that legal clinics are backed up. Often evictions aren't people's fault, they just happened so fast. The protections and extended timeline allowed in HB 2002 is a necessity.

I work with families facing a number of stressors and barriers to housing. Data from the state economist shows that over half of Oregon renters don't have money left over for basic necessities. When people who are struggling get evicted, it's really hard to come back from. With my clients, I am seeing this is real time. And evictions are not happening equally. Our Black and Hispanic neighbors continue to bear the brunt of the worst impact. We need to prioritize keeping people in their homes and start to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Our unhoused neighbors aren't just a homeless statistic—they are people, families, and stories. I urge you to vote yes on HB 2001.

Sincerely, Cindy in Oregon City