

Submitter: Elizabeth Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

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

My name is Beth and I live in Milwaukie. I am an Oregon renter 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.

As a child, my family faced housing instability due to loss of income. My father was evicted and this placed an even heavier burden on my mother trying to ensure that her four kids had stable housing while sharing custody with her ex-husband. Eventually my mother was able to regain full custody, however my father remains homeless more than 7 years later. During this period of our lives, it was extremely difficult for all of us children to focus on our schoolwork. As kids, we had to work as much as possible to ensure my mother maintained housing. Eviction does not just impact the person(s) being evicted, but it often impacts their children or others in their lives. I hope we can all work together to create a future in which children do not have to help their parents pay rent or worry about becoming homeless.

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.