



TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Todd Addams, Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon
DATE: 2/14/2023
RE: Support for HB 2001

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

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2001, which is an important element of the response to our housing crisis. The bill ensures a focus on youth homelessness prevention, provides innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and contains critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. We appreciate that this bill is bipartisan and bicameral and the work that has been done to get it to this point.

Basic Rights Oregon is the advocacy organization for LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians, and our community is over-represented among Oregon's houseless population. LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians are more likely to face employment and housing discrimination, meaning even housed folks are often one missed rent payment away from being unhoused. In particular, transgender people are twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to cisgender people, according to the National Center on Transgender Equality.

This problem extends to LGBTQ2SIA+ youth, who are more likely to be in shelters, in the foster care system, and in our unhoused population. Unhoused youth are unable to wholly engage in their education, and are 27% less likely to graduate from high school than housed students.

We are 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.

In closing, passage of HB 2001 will enhance our 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 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,

Todd Addams
Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon