



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: February 14, 2023
RE: In Support of HB 2001

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

Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support families and help them succeed, both in the workplace and at home. We work to ensure that Oregon is a place where all families can be economically secure and have the time they need to take care of each other. We believe having a safe and stable home is a critical component to every family's success – it impacts a family's safety and security, their childrens' educational outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for the entire family. That is why we strongly support HB 2001, which prevents eviction-caused homelessness and addresses housing supply barriers for Oregonians.

Sections 14-26 of HB 2001 contain essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction. We urge your support of these Sections of the bill in particular:

- 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 more fair.
- Streamline the eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a procedural barrier to future housing stability.

Multiple studies show that evictions affect Black, Indigenous, and other people of color significantly– especially those who identify as women. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report from 2022 found that the gap between wages and housing costs continues to be the largest for people of color, and particularly women of color¹. Among renters, 55% of Black households are cost-burdened and 53% of Latino households are

¹ <https://nlihc.org/news/nlihc-releases-out-reach-2022-high-cost-housing-0>

cost-burdened, compared to 43% of white households. The disparities grow even starker for women of color: more than 70% of Black and Latina women earn an hourly wage that falls short of the one-bedroom Housing Wage.

There are also multigenerational effects of eviction for families– evictions harm babies in the womb and give them disadvantages that last a lifetime². According to a 2021 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association on evictions of pregnant women in Georgia, eviction during pregnancy – particularly during the second and third trimester –showed an association with lower birth rates and gestational age. These findings suggest that eviction actions during pregnancy are associated with adverse birth outcomes, which have been shown to have lifelong and multigenerational consequences.

We believe that HB 2001 is landmark legislation which addresses the urgent crisis that so many of the communities we advocate for face. This package will give people who are behind on their rent a reasonable amount of time to catch up and, if they need it, locate, apply and receive rent assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2001.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kwon
Policy Manager
Family Forward Oregon

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7922232/>

