

22 February 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Re: House Bill 2001

Dear Chair Representative Dexter, Vice-Chairs Representatives Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the Committee;

Enough with the “emergencies.” Every problem Oregonians are facing is not an emergency. Emergencies do not develop slowly. They happen suddenly. In fact there are valid arguments that this so-called emergency, homelessness, is simply the result of previous laws, rules and legislation. How about calling the housing problem something like, mismanaged land use codes? Or poorly thought out solutions? Or hastily planned quick fixes? Or restrictive building regulations?

Or a result of the even increasing restrictions on rental property owners? For example, SECTION 15. (1) (b). “Nonpayment does not include payments owed by a tenant for damage to the premises.” Who gets to pay that one?

An almost comical clause in HB 2001 (-1 amendments) is found in SECTION 4. Sec. 1, (1), “Youth experiencing homelessness means a person who is at least 14 years of age but not more than 24 years of age....” A twenty-four year old Oregonian is considered a youth!

I’m pretty sure this bill will pass but I hope it doesn’t. And who gets to pay for all this?

All these fixes various legislators come up with will not make much difference until personal the personal responsibility of their constituents is taken seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner