



February 23, 2023

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Oregon Education Association

Re: Re-affirm Support for HB 2001

Dear Chair Dexter and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to community colleges. Our members are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college professionals and more.

OEA supports HB 2001 because it 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.

This 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. As educators, we know that the unique impact of housing instability and homelessness on our students means a more challenging, and oftentimes tumultuous, journey through their academic studies. According to data collected by the US Dept of Education, our state has the highest percentage of homeless or housing insecure youth in the country (0.36%; nearly 22,336 kids)--- this is unacceptable.¹ We know that when students are hungry, anxious, unsheltered or do not have a safe place to call home it drastically effects their ability to learn in school--- that is why HB 2001 is so important.

In particular, we would like to express support for sections 14 – 26 in the bill, which contains essential improvements to Oregon’s eviction statutes:

- 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.

¹ https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/at-risk-kids-oregon-has-highest-rate-among-u-s-states-for-homeless-youth/article_4713fcbd-e315-5b95-8b12-8f0fa936d261.html



Communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, health care, opportunity and wealth are paying an unfair price for Oregon's unfair and rushed eviction laws. It is time to make it right and set a new path of hope for our students and families across the state.

Thank you for your time and we encourage the committee to pass HB 2001.

Sincerely,

Michele Ruffin

Government Relations Consultant

Oregon Education Association