

Submitter: Erin Meechan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

Re: Opposition to HB 2305

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

I urge your opposition to HB 2305, which would increase the number of evictions and send more housed Oregonians to the streets. We already know that most renters are paying more than 30% of their income for rent and those who are working 40 hours are not guaranteed affordable housing in today's rental market. Those that are making their rent and bills, at a job that pays minimum wage or just above, are living paycheck to paycheck, but they are getting it done.

Oregonians that rent homes in our communities who have unforeseen circumstances may need longer than 30 days to cure their overdue rent. HB 2305 will hurt those who are working hard to maintain livability. In life, real-time things happen that we cannot avoid and temporarily hinder our stream of income. HB 2305 would affect those workers. Housing is a human basic need and everyone deserves a place to call home. We need to support all renters in Oregon by allowing reasonable time to access and obtain funding that they may need to remain housed.

As a single mom in my time of crisis, I have been evicted for non-payment of rent due to loss of transportation and increases in cost of living. This experience kept us displaced for over 8 months with an eviction on my record, making it even more difficult to secure and fund a new home. I dropped out of college, my daughter fell very behind in school. The emotional toll on our family was great. This was 9 years ago and in the present time we have almost caught up to our educational and life goals.

The ripple effect of those past events took years to repair. This is a time when we must come together to support solutions to the housing crisis, not backward steps. I urge you to vote against HB 2305 and hope you will focus on the collective and critically important work to increase housing supply, support preservation and affordable housing solutions, support eviction prevention and rent assistance solutions, and increased access to supportive services and shelter.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Erin Meechan