

Submitter: APRIL LACOMBE

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

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

I urge your opposition to HB 2305, which would destabilize tenants and put them at risk of eviction and displacement in an already brutal housing market.

I am a landlord of an individual unit in Portland and a member of the Housing Justice Team at St Anthony's Church in Tigard. As a child my family faced housing instability and I grew up thinking landlords were "the bad guys." Now I feel very privileged to be one of the "good guy" landlords, and am an advocate for tenants' rights. We need to work with tenants and do everything we can to keep more people from falling into homelessness.

HB 2305 would undermine tenant stability and increase displacement. It would open up the statutes to create broad loopholes that landlords could exploit to increase evictions. These loopholes will lead to greater possibilities of discriminatory enforcement and fair housing violations.

Landlords already have myriad tools to evict tenants for lease violations and for repeated lease violations, often with little notice. When evictions happen in this housing market, they lead to homelessness. We must do all we can to prevent unfair displacement.

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

April LaCombe