



February 18, 2025

Chair Pam Marsh  
House Housing and Homeless Committee  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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


My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency in Salem, Oregon. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually we provide more than \$77 million in services and direct client assistance for housing, homelessness, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs to more than 60,000 Oregonians in poverty, in addition to a range of emergency services that shelter the homeless and serve wildfire victims. I also serve as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, and sit on the Housing Committee of the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

I write today to oppose **House Bill 2305**, which would exacerbate the eviction danger to low-income renters in Oregon, and push more Oregonians into an expensive housing market. Our low-income and working poor communities in Oregon struggle each day to pay their bills, buy gas to drive to work, and put food on the table for their families. In every conceivable metric we have, cost burdens on low and middle-income Oregonians are much worse today than they were five years ago. Evictions and skyrocketing rents are the number one driver for our steadily growing homeless population in Oregon.

House Bill 2305 returns us to a time when landlords in Oregon could evict tenants with impunity. This bill in particular would allow the eviction of tenants even after the violation of a rental agreement has been cured, and for little discernable reason. Such tools are unnecessary, because landlords already have a considerable number of options to seek corrective action, and to evict tenants if those actions are not cured.

There is little need for such new authority here in 2025, and little evidence that this new authority would cure a problem that landlords do not already have the ability to solve. What it will do is increase the number of Oregon renters looking for new rental housing, which will drive up rents across the state and further endanger our vulnerable rental community. The vast majority of evictions in Oregon are because of nonpayment of rent. This proposed change, now, will only increase the numbers of folks who rest on the margins of economic viability and who will struggle to stay in their homes.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Jones  
Executive Director