

Submitter: Samuel Freni-Rothschild

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2305, the three-strikes bill, before the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness.

I oversee an eviction prevention program for families with children at Path Home in Portland. We provide one-time or short term financial assistance and case management to help families avoid homelessness. Oregon already leads the country in having more unsheltered family homelessness than any other state and we should do everything we can to avoid adding to that problematic statistic.

My experience working with vulnerable communities in Oregon gives me concern that this bill will unduly impact families, disabled tenants, tenants from marginalized communities, and tenants experiencing financial hardship. These groups are already over-policed by landlords, and establishing stable housing is a challenge for these groups.

This bill will make it easier for landlords to evict tenants for minor infractions. Although this is not the specific goal of the Bill's proponents, its overly broad nature will make it easy for bad actors to abuse it.

I sincerely urge you to protect Oregon's most vulnerable tenants by voting against HB 2305. You can aid those of us on the front lines of Oregon's housing crisis by focusing efforts on legislation that will make housing more available and more equitable for these groups.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,
Samuel Freni-Rothschild
Stability Program Manager
Path Home