

Submitter: Elliott Gossen

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 work in homelessness prevention and eviction diversion in Lane county. The vast majority of my clients who have received eviction notices in the past 24 months have received them for issues with paying the rent. Even with the funding I am able to provide, many of these families still struggle to make ends meet - not because they are not working but because the rental environment is completely unsustainable and prices are violently inflated due to demand. This bill will particularly harm folks who are accessing housing subsidies and rental assistance, since those processes take time. While not the expressed intent of the bill - a landlord could easily evict their low income tenants due to payment delays that are not a fault of the tenant. This bill does not require that the resident has gone to court for the eviction, just that notices have been served to the resident(s). For any resident that experiences challenges understanding and interpreting paperwork this can create a circumstance where they don't understand that their housing is in jeopardy.

This bill does not improve housing for anyone, and it will increase the amount of unhoused residents in Oregon if passed.

My experience working with vulnerable communities in Oregon gives me concern that this bill will unduly impact 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,
Elliott Gossen