

Submitter: Amanda Servellon

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 am a housing case manager with Easterseals Oregon SSVF. I deal with clients daily that have a host of mental health conditions because of their service in the military. This severely impacts their ability to maintain stable housing without some kind of assistance program. The clients I work with are the few fortunate to have such comprehensive resources available to them, and even then, they struggle to have stability. This bill would disproportionately affect some of the most vulnerable people in our society and I don't believe that only veterans should be able to have and maintain stable housing. Stable housing correlates to a happier and healthier quality of life for all, and this bill would directly guarantee that struggling people would lose their ability to maintain a good life at a time, and in a political climate, where resources and assistance are becoming scarcer.

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,
Amanda Servellon