

Submitter: Diane McBurnett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

I am writing in opposition to HB 2305. In these unstable economic times people can be suffering with bad luck, illness, job loss, or other unforeseen events that can take months to return to stability. For people on the economic edge, or even for people who are not but suffer catastrophic events like serious illness or prolonged job loss, having a 3rd material violation or late payment is not unheard of. With the cost of rent and the stubbornness of wages remaining low for many people, repeated violations can occur even though the person is doing their best to recover from their situation.

I am a private citizen who volunteers with Family Promise. This program works with families who are homeless. Our church provides a place to stay and feeds the families, who are working, helping them to save for reentry into a home. The program also walks with them for the first year they are re-homed, in effect paying rent for them should economic hardship return. The people I have helped in this program are good people who are needing support to get back on their feet. They aren't addicted to drugs or criminals or others who cause problems for their neighbors.

I have a son who recently moved back to Oregon to take a job. There were no rental homes where he relocated to. None. Fortunately for him a person who knew of his arrival was leaving their rental home and offered to talk to his landlord. That is how they got a home to live in. Even so, to move in they had to have \$7,000 cash. First, last and deposit. Not all people can afford to do this easily. It certainly took a chunk from his family budget.

Unless and until Oregon gets back on its feet regarding housing availability, I don't understand how this bill helps the situation. Evicted people have a harder time finding another place to live, which just adds to the homelessness problem we currently have. It would be in our best interest as a society to help people stay in their homes in any way we can. Adding people to the streets isn't a productive way to solve the problem.

Thank You
Diane McBurnett
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