

Submitter: Ivy Hutchison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

My mother died in November of 2023.

She had no wealth, no life insurance. She lived in a run down old mobile home with my dad. He found her and in his shock and grief he had a stroke.

I had to care for him for 5 months straight. I wasn't able to work concurrently and my husbands income wasnt sufficient to cover our expenses. I looked into rental assistance and learned there was a multi month delay between application and actual remediation.

So that would be eviction notice.

Had I not remembered to alert our property manager that dad would be living with us, that could have been a lease violation eviction notice.

Now imagine he had a dog he shared with my mom before she passed and he brought the dog to our house during his care. Dog is not declared on the lease. That would be a third eviction notice.

I realize there are proper channels to follow in all these cases but in my grief and because of the level of care needed by my dad, I would not have been able to follow them.

This proposed legislation could have resulted in us losing our housing on the heels of my mom's unexpected death. Through no fault of ours other than being overwhelmed and undersupported.

Thankfully, dad's dog passed away before my mom and I did contact my landlord. We used credit rather than rental assistance. This could very easily have gone the other way.

It's inhumane to evict people following a death in the family, an injury or major surgery. And those seem like the main reasons someone might end up with multiple eviction warnings.

Also landlords here in Eugene are frequently negligent of their legal responsibilities and I see this legislation being easily abused. One property management company here was named in a lawsuit for price fixing. They own multiple complexes in town. We need more protection from them, not the other way around.