

2/19/2025

Chair Pam Marsh
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

The Multnomah County Department of Human Services respectfully urges you to oppose HB 2305, which would destabilize tenants and put them at greater risk of unfair eviction and displacement. The passing of this bill would exacerbate the eviction danger to our most vulnerable community members, adding to the growing unhoused crisis in Oregon.

Multnomah County firmly opposes HB2305 because it is dangerously broad and unnecessary, opening the door to retaliatory and discriminatory evictions. This bill only serves to further tilt the balance of power against tenants, as landlords currently have sufficient tools at their disposal to address lease violations, including non-curable termination notices.

HB 2305 would allow evictions for violations of a rental agreement, even after the tenant has corrected those violations. Furthermore, landlords often benefit from rental assistance funds, yet HB 2305 would allow them to take advantage of these resources and then evict tenants without any right to cure. This creates an unjust and potentially exploitative dynamic.

The consequences of eviction are devastating. In today's housing market, evictions lead to homelessness. They deepen financial hardship, disrupt children's education, erode mental health, and make it harder for tenants to secure future housing. Evictions disproportionately impact households composed of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, older adults, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations as they are all statistically more likely to be renters, have lower incomes, and be cost-burdened in housing.

But the impacts extend far beyond those experiencing evictions. Evictions destabilize **entire** communities, increasing rates of homelessness, escalating crime, and disproportionately harming low-income and minority populations. The ripple effects of evictions create a vicious cycle of economic and social instability.

This is a time when we must come together to support solutions to the unhoused crisis, not take backward steps. We urge you to vote against HB 2305 and hope you will focus on the collective and critically important work needed to increase housing supply, preserve existing affordable housing, prevent evictions through rent assistance, and ensure access to supportive services and shelter.

HB 2305 is a harmful, unnecessary measure that will only deepen Oregon's housing crisis. We urge you to oppose it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Pearl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Pearl
Deputy Director
Department of County Human Services