

Re: Opposition to HB 2305

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

I urge your opposition to HB 2305, which would destabilize tenants and put them at risk of eviction and displacement into an expensive housing market with low vacancy rates, increasing the risk of homelessness.

My organization, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, has helped more than 3,000 households remain safely and stably housed through short-term rent assistance. Without such assistance these families are at high risk for homelessness and ongoing financial instability that only harms everyone and contributes to the homelessness epidemic.

HB 2305 would undermine tenant stability and increase displacement. The bill would allow displacement without the opportunity to cure for violations of a rental agreement, even after the tenant has corrected those violations. Landlords already have myriad tools to evict tenants for serious lease violations and for repeated lease violations where the tenant is failing to correct their action. When evictions happen in this housing market, they lead to homelessness. We must do all we can to prevent unfair displacement.

This is a time when we must come together to support solutions to the housing crisis, not backward steps. I urge you to vote against HB 2305 and hope you will focus on the collective and critically important work to increase housing supply, support preservation and affordable housing solutions, support eviction prevention and rent assistance solutions, and increased access to supportive services and shelter.

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

Sincerely,

Kim Christiansen
Grants Manager
United Way of the Columbia-Willamette in Portland