

Submitter: Melissa Handley

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.

In my current position I work with persons with cognitive disabilities and low income persons with low educational attainment. I have witnessed first hand the discrimination these persons face as they attempt to secure and maintain housing. They have trouble navigating housing systems and often do not understand the potential ramifications of landlord notices. If they do not have a navigator such as myself assisting them and advocating for them, they are at increased risk of losing housing already. The proposed measures will put undue added pressures and risks on these already vulnerable persons. There are already adequate legal measures that allow truly problematic tenants to be evicted. This measure proposed by this house bill goes too far.

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,
Melissa Handley
Parent Navigator
Pearl Buck Center