

Submitter: Timothy Bland

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.

I am the Program Manager at Family Promise of Tualatin Valley. We are a housing nonprofit that serves unhoused families and individuals in Washington County. One of our program focuses on eviction prevention. This bill has the potential to negatively impact the most vulnerable members of our community by increasing the total number of evictions, which will put additional stress and monetary burden on the social service agencies in Washington County whose goal it is to enable long term stability and end the cycle of homelessness. This bill would oppose our efforts directly, by increasing the rate at which families and individuals return to a homeless living situation. Families and individuals who do not get evicted are far more likely to reach a point of self-sufficiency and stability. Once an eviction is on a person's rental history record, it becomes incredibly difficult for that person or family to regain housing. Evictions must be prevented whenever possible, as they are often the impetus to a person or family's long term housing instability.

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,
Timothy Bland