

Submitter:

C. H.T.

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 have worked in the area of Human Services as a contractor for ODHS for over 11 years, working specifically with those receiving TANF benefits and many of whom receiving housing assistance. I have seen over the course of the past few years how not only people receiving assistance with housing, but those who are not receiving housing assistance, and professional people like myself, who do not qualify for assistance with rent or any other resources for aid are already struggling to pay rent along with other monthly bills on time.

I can tell you that as a working professional I have not been able to pay my rent without an additional late fee for almost a full year, and even a few times prior to that. A bill such as this passing, is so incredibly reckless and beyond belief, that I cannot believe anyone would initiate a bill of this nature. We already have a homeless problem with no end in sight- at least not for the long-term. I am disgusted that this measure would hurt the semi-working professionals, and hardworking individuals for being tardy with rent especially when there is no help for them to alleviate the high cost of rent. As if the additional late fee penalty is not already enough, that in addition to everything; utility, fuel, food and basic necessities having increased in price. That does not even include that rent increases are already implemented as often as they can be. The individual that proposed this measure, as well as anyone believing this is a good idea, should be ashamed of themselves. Or perhaps they are already homeowners and/or landlords? Have some damn compassion- most people cannot even move to pay lesser rent if they wanted to because they cannot afford to considering the expense of the required deposits.

Additionally, where they move to once they have an eviction on their rental history?

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,
C. Hays