

Submitter: Logan Ridenour-Starnes

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 work with our unhoused neighbors - working as part of a team that helps connect folks with resources for sustainable housing and provides them with shelter in the meantime. Many of the folks that I work with are only unhoused because an unjust system, often comprised by unjust landlords and property managers. Usually the folks I help serve are on the streets because they did not have recourse for challenging evictions and/or were under resourced. This new bill will only enable an increase in abusive tendencies already inherent in the system. Instead of punishing our most vulnerable neighbors, we need to help them - and not on an individual scale but on a systemic and tangible level.

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,
Logan Ridenour-Starnes

