

Submitter: Kayla Wilson

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 a Marion County resident who has worked in the social services field providing housing support services for over 10 years.

While the intent of this bill seems reasonable - for landlords to be able to remove tenants with a pattern of serious problems - I am concerned that it will have unintended effects on some of the most vulnerable tenants including those with disabilities, tenants from marginalized communities, and tenants who are experiencing financial hardship and waiting on rent assistance.

Disabled and marginalized tenants already experience disparities in establishing and maintaining safe and secure housing, and this bill seems likely to increase those disparities by making it easier for landlords to evict tenants over minor violations without the opportunity to cure. Removing the opportunity to cure in some instances of nonpayment will also limit opportunities for qualified tenants to access available assistance and will increase otherwise preventable evictions.

An eviction is not just a temporary inconvenience. It is a devastating event that typically occurs as a result of other adverse circumstances and has long-term effects on a household's ability to meet basic needs, to be healthy and safe, and to be productive and contributing positively to the community. The ripple effects of these situations impact the entire community, not just the evicted household. It is not just or fair to burden vulnerable households and communities in this way over minor violations or violations that could be resolved in other, less damaging ways.

The state has invested heavily in various strategies to address the housing crisis and prevent unnecessary evictions. I believe this bill would undermine those efforts. I think it is fair for landlords to want a pathway to remove tenants with a pattern of violations that cause serious harm, but I don't think this bill is the right way to do it.

Sincerely,  
Kayla Wilson