



Testimony in Support of HB 2001
Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval, Unite Oregon
January 26, 2023

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of our 46,000 members in strong support of House Bill 2001, more specifically Sections 14-26. My name is Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval (she/her) and I am the Policy Director at Unite Oregon. Our organization is led by black, indigenous, people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty.

This year we held a membership summit in which Housing was voted our top priority in both policy and community services. We have been asked for help with paying for rent, resources, education, and translation to attempt to stay housed. We have helped many folks resolve evictions when we had 10 days, now, we see folks face eviction simply because we do not have the time to address it.

Losing a home, becoming homeless, is a horrific experience and feeds into the poverty cycle, one of the most expensive and rapid cycles I have personally experienced. Communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, health care, opportunity and wealth are paying an unfair price for Oregon's rushed eviction laws. I once experienced an eviction notice despite working two jobs most of my life. When housing takes up 60-80% of your income, it takes one incident to push you over the edge. Things like a flat tire, increase in the cost of eggs, or an asthma attack. In my situation, aside from needing funds, I struggled to find resources when I was close to eviction. What I needed was time, a privilege within itself to know what I needed, who to contact, and how to address my situation.

We are not asking for evictions to be canceled, we are asking for time to address them, to respond, to receive support, to pay, and to be protected from prejudice of records incorrectly sealed.

This bipartisan and bicameral eviction reform and homelessness prevention packet is critical. We need to:

- Expand time from 72 hours to 10 days after notice of nonpayment before being taken to court.



- Provide that nonpayment eviction notices and court forms include translated information about where to find rent assistance and legal assistance.
- Amend first appearance and trial timelines to ensure that tenants have a chance to find help before their hearing.
- Provide that an eviction case will be dismissed if payment is made before final judgment.
- Make the default judgment process more fair.
- Streamline eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a barrier to future housing stability.

Oregon residents deserve to be housed. Unite Oregon asks you to support our membership by voting yes to move House Bill 2001 out of committee.