

Submitter: Natasha Clayborn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB799

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Natasha Clayborn; I work for JOIN and I am here to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare and they must be fair. Too many people are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package to increase rent assistance, limit rate increases, and increase the data available about Oregon's rental market. Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and homelessness response. We strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as quickly as possible as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package that includes \$100 million in rent assistance, SB 611 / HB 2733 to limit the exorbitant and abusive rent increases too many landlords are imposing this year, and the Rental Market Data Bill for greater transparency into this essential component of Oregon's housing availability.

As a social worker I have seen firsthand the devastation that comes with eviction and the fact is that every family entering a new housing development and every person proudly holding a key to their own front door for the first time in years, is at risk of being a few dollars short on rent and losing everything to eviction. People are already living on the edge financially, and when people on the edge get evicted it's all too easy to fall into homelessness.

Thank you again for hearing this important bill and allowing me to speak. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on SB 799 and the Homelessness Prevention Package.