Submitter: Lucy Briseno

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

Subject: Renter supporting SB 799

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

My name is Lucy Briseno and I live in Independence. I'm a renter and a single mother of three kids. I've been evicted and I'm testifying in support of lifesaving bills like SB 799 and the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package. I don't want anyone to experience what my family went through when we were evicted, especially not when that eviction could be entirely preventable with just a little more time.

I received an eviction when my rent payment was just $1 short. Before the pandemic, I had 72 hours to vacate, which not enough time to access assistance or rectify the situation. My children and I left our house with nothing more than we could carry. My eviction led to 20 months where my three children and I were homeless. We don't often talk about the shame of eviction but it's traumatic, and escalated my own struggles with addiction. Having more time would've allowed me to prevent the entire thing. With ten days, I could have accessed resources. I could have kept a stable home for my kids, one where they could walk to school. I would have kept my dignity. Forever, I'll be healing from the trauma born out of being evicted and being homeless.

And now, in Oregon, every time you turn around someone else is experiencing eviction. We need to stop this crisis. I now have a job at Arches to help other people experiencing homelessness and my situation wasn't even the worst. I was lucky—I had a car, I spoke fluent English, and I knew how to advocate for myself. What about everyone else?

I want to stay mindful of the needs of landlords, homeowners, and us renters. SB 799 is one step towards a more fair eviction process, and one that would make all the difference in the world for people in my shoes. Beyond that, we must pass the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package.

Sincerely,
Lucy (Independence, Oregon)