

Submitter: Berna Wingert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB799

Berna Wingert
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January 30, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Housing and Development Committee
900 Court St. NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

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

I strongly urge passage of SB 799 which helps insure people have enough time to challenge false accusations or get rent assistance if needed and solves the problem of some landlords refusing to accept rent payments.

This bill is part of Governor Kotek's emergency legislative package to provide \$100 million for rent assistance; SB611/HB2733 to limit exorbitant and abusive rent increases too many landlords are imposing this year; and the Rental Market Data Bill for greater transparency in the rental housing sector. All these factors are necessary to create greater availability of affordable housing in Oregon.

My name is Berna Wingert , an 89-year old senior retiree living in Eugene. As a rental resident of a retirement community, I am becoming increasingly concerned about the problems of the shortage of affordable housing for most Oregonians, especially young adults, women, low-income, minorities and seniors.

I am aware that the demand for housing assistance and advocacy from 2020 to the present has skyrocketed to more than 250 cases per month in the Eugene and Springfield area. Recent surveys indicate that between 12 -37% of those who are evicted become homeless. According to the state economist, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money for food, medicine and the basic necessity after the rent is paid.

Meanwhile, according to tax returns (even during the Pandemic), the number of Oregonians earning more than \$500,000 jumped more than 11% in 2020, and tripled

over the past decade.

Communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, healthcare opportunity and a sustainable income are paying an unfair price for Oregon's unjust and rushed eviction laws. I strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as quickly as possible.

If you have questions or want to contact me, I can be reached at 207.939.4451. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Berna Wingert