

Submitter: Mary Kay Boldajipour
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 Mary Kay Boldajipour and I live in Bend, Oregon, with my son. I am an Oregon renter here to testify in favor of SB 799 because evictions must be rare, and they must be fair. Too many people like me 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.

In Bend, Oregon, we are getting forced out of our rentals by greed and high rents, for properties that are not worth the amount of rent paid. Shabby carpets, inefficient heating sources, improper door and window weatherization, and faulty appliances. We struggle with inequity in wages and inability to move up because of the high cost of living. Something has got to change! Everyone deserves the right to have a home over their head without working 2 and 3 jobs. Landlords have done nothing but profit over the last 3 years especially. Their rents were paid, often they received PPP and yet they have still evicted thousands of people, crying about how much money they have lost. Nobody should be paying more than 50% or 60% of their income to rent. How are renters to save so they can own a home one day? Roll back rent prices! 30% of a person's income should be the only amount a landlord can charge! Stop the greed! No landlord should be relying on the income of others for his sole income either! I want and try to plan my life, so I have some quality of life! But I remain a slave to landlords and corporations. I have been homeless, I lived in a Warehouse. I do not want this to happen to me again or anyone else. I lost my beautiful Townhome I rented for \$725.00 a month with no cause and no renewal of my lease. At that time, there was nothing I could do. One month later, that same Townhome rented for \$1250.00 and now, well, its more than a house payment. Not only is this unethical, but it is also greed! I leave you with one of my favorite quotes:-

WE ARE NOT PUT ON THIS EARTH TO SEE THROUGH ONE ANOTHER; WE ARE PUT ON THIS EARTH TO SEE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH.

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