

Submitter: Joi Cardinal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

You've not heard my unique perspective.

Birddude and I moved to Eugene in 2001, fleeing high NorCal rents with two expensive special needs kids {first-born needed \$100,000 of hip surgeries and body casts. I had a 27-week preemie after cervical cancer. That cost \$1/4 million . Ten weeks of NICU care requiring two hours of kangaroo care {skin-to-skin bonding} each afternoon. ate up a lot of work time.

My artist sister told us about the curious 'anarchist district," the Whitaker. We settled into the Best Value Inn on W 6th where the kids enjoyed Nickelodeon. I returned to transcribing. We discovered Delta Ponds and enjoyed food truck fare.

A week later a thunderclap headache herald a new phase in my life as an arteriovenous malformation sprung 27 leaks. I will never work, walk independently or be continent again. I was stabilized at Sacred Heart then discharged to the street at 2am.

Partner and I slept in the Overpark building, contributed our food stamps to shared meals at the Hwy 99 service station where we showered weekly, and made calls to inch along the transitional housing waitlist and keep in touch with social workers arranging aneurysm repair at OHSU.

Our kids went into foster care. First-born was raped at Christie Care in Lake Oswego.

Vinnie's gave us a spot in their Hope Loop transitional housing project. We completed three months of renter's rehab. East Blair Coop gave us a break. We've remained stably housed since then

When the rent on our place on west 18th went up, Emerald was the only company willing to rent us 500 sq feet of filthy roach and rat-infested space. When you're powerless you don't insist on a move in checklist.

Since then we've been challenged by having no recycling for milk jugs or cardboard and an infrequently emptied dumpster. When the overhead lights failed, presumably from rats in the wiring, we simply bought lights.