



## Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 17, 2025

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2305, which would destabilize tenants and put them at risk of eviction and displacement into an expensive housing market with low vacancy rates, increasing the risk of homelessness.**

My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of two locals: SEIU Local 503, representing homecare workers, nonprofit employees, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and public sector employees; and SEIU Local 49, representing janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing employees, and healthcare workers. Together, we represent over 85,000 working people.

We believe that every Oregonian should be able to afford rent and have access to a place they call home without having to put in jeopardy their ability to pay for food, child care, transportation, health care, taxes, and other necessities. That's the reason why our union collaborates with other organizations to address our housing crisis and ensure that workers have the resources and stability they need to stay housed.

HB 2305 threatens that stability by making it easier to displace tenants without giving them the opportunity to correct lease violations—even after they've addressed the issue. Landlords already have extensive legal avenues to evict tenants for serious or repeated violations. In today's housing market, eviction often leads to homelessness, and we must do everything possible to prevent unnecessary displacement.

We understand that in order to properly address our housing crisis, we need to explore a multitude of policies, from rent assistance and eviction prevention to new construction and expanding housing supply. HB 2305, however, is not one of those policies. Our workers are already struggling to remain housed. Their rights as tenants deserve to be protected and strengthened, not weakened.

SEIU Oregon urges this committee to oppose HB 2305.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos  
Political and Government Relations Organizer  
SEIU Oregon State Council