

Submitter: Carley Adams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 2305, the three-strikes bill, before the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness.

I work with a program that supports landlords and tenants in preventing eviction through mediation and conflict resolution. I have 12 years of experience in my role, witnessing the challenges that tenants face when managing financial complications impacting their ability to pay rent. As we know, rental assistance programs are limited, and currently most rental assistance is only available AFTER an FED has been filed with the court. This means that tenants applying for rental assistance have no choice but to have a court filing in order to receive the financial assistance that they qualify to receive. This gives me concern that this bill will unduly impact disabled tenants, tenants from marginalized communities, and tenants experiencing financial hardship. These groups are already over-policed by landlords, and establishing stable housing is a challenge for these groups.

This bill will make it easier for landlords to evict tenants for minor infractions. Although this is not the specific goal of the Bill's proponents, its overly broad nature will make it easy for bad actors to abuse it.

I sincerely urge you to protect Oregon's most vulnerable tenants by voting against HB 2305. You can aid those of us on the front lines of Oregon's housing crisis by focusing efforts on legislation that will make housing more available and more equitable for these groups.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,
Carley Adams

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