



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 14, 2023

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of House Bill 2001, which is an important bipartisan and bicameral element of the response to our housing crisis.**

My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am testifying on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 87,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

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. Unfortunately, Oregon has seen a 14.6% rent increase and there have been more than 2,000 eviction filings every month since the expiration of protections, which is a 43% increase over pre-pandemic levels. These rent increases have negatively impacted the homes and lives of our members; many of whom are low-income frontline workers.

While we support this bill as a whole, we are particularly writing to urge support of Sections 14-26 of HB 2001, which contain essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction. These Sections of the bill:

- Expand the time after a notice of nonpayment before being taken to court from 72 hours to 10 days.
- Provide that nonpayment eviction notices and court forms should include information about where to find rent assistance and legal assistance, and provide access to translation of these forms.
- Amend first appearance and trial timelines to ensure that tenants have a greater chance of finding help before their hearing.
- Provide that an eviction case will be dismissed if payment is made before final judgment.

Currently, people only have 72 hours to apply for rent assistance and pay their landlord. It is unjust and unfair to expect Oregonians like our members to search for, find, apply, receive rent assistance and give that payment over to their landlords on top of taking care of their families, going to work, and any other commitments they may have.

The aforementioned sections would create a more reasonable eviction timeline by increasing the time that people have to search for and receive rent assistance from 72 hours to 10 days. No one should lose their home when there is rent assistance available and on the way.



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This bill reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are living with due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

SEIU Oregon strongly urges the Committee to stand in unity with our members and support HB 2001.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council