



January 30, 2023

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) respectfully submits comment in support of SB 799 which will reduce evictions and prevent homelessness. Stable, affordable housing is essential for survivors of sexual and domestic violence to stay safe and secure. In Oregon, 83% of domestic violence survivors entering shelters identified “finding housing I can afford” as a core need. Moreover, survivors that do manage to establish safe households for themselves and their families are often rent-burdened; one emergency, unexpected debt or rent increase may cause homelessness.

Families at risk need time to access rent assistance and services so they don’t face displacement and danger. Reducing evictions is an essential part of the housing and homelessness response. As Gov. Kotek and legislative leadership commit to increasing the housing supply and rehousing our homeless neighbors, we must also ensure that the people who are housed today don’t end up on the streets themselves.

We must make evictions rare and when they do happen, more fair. During the pandemic, the legislature did exactly that and passed protections which meant fewer evictions and fewer people displaced from their homes. It is time to take those lessons learned and apply them today with SB 799 which gives people who are behind on their rent a reasonable amount of time to catch up and, if they need it, locate, apply and receive rent assistance.

If passed, SB 799 would:

- Reinstate the increased time between nonpayment notice and eviction court from 72 hours to 10 days to give people time to access assistance.
- Reinstate a safe harbor period of up to 60 days for people who have notified the landlord they have applied for rent assistance so no one is evicted when help is on the way.
- Reinstate the requirement to provide access to eviction information in the six most common languages spoken in Oregon.

OCADSV supports SB 799 and strongly urges its speedy passage as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package that includes \$100 million in rent new rent assistance, SB 611 / HB 2733 to limit the exorbitant rent increases too many landlords are imposing this year, and the Rental Market Data Bill for greater transparency into this essential component of Oregon’s housing availability.

Thank You,

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