

Testimony HB 2001 feb2023

Dear Chair and members of the Housing Committee,

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My name is Jay H and I am a renter in Washington County, Oregon. I am a member of my union AFSCME Local 88 and a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. And today, I come here extremely proud of the work the Community Alliance of Tenants does by educating and empowering tenants to demand safe, stable and affordable rental homes. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am speaking in support of House Bill 2001. I know through my work in human services and my personal experience as a renter that evictions in Oregon are skyrocketing to historical rates, increasing homelessness and threatening the security for countless families across the State.

Renters in Oregon deserve better than to live the constant threats of widespread evictions and then homelessness. If the last two or three years has shown all of us nothing else, it has shown us the importance of reforms that provide tenants the right to stay in their homes with dignity and implement some of the lessons from the pandemic.

Too many people that I work with each day are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this much needed bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package to increase rent assistance, limit rate increases, and increase the data available about Oregon's rental market.

Thank you again for hearing this important bill and allowing me to speak. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on HB 2001 and the Homelessness Prevention Package.

Jay H