

Submitter: Elizabeth Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Elizabeth Torres and I live in Tigard. I'm here to testify in support of SB 799 because evictions should not happen so quickly and so unfairly for tenants. I was lucky enough to know where to call for help once I got eviction court papers. I got a referral to a rent assistance agency, but my rent assistance application was denied because my landlord refused to work with them or take the money. They were going to pay everything I owed plus three months' future rent, but they still wouldn't take the money. I went to court and the lawyer for the landlord intimidated me right before my hearing. My only option was to sign a moveout agreement. I had to move right before Christmas. My son, who has special needs, and me got evicted and we still are not in new housing. I am doubling up with my sister and family until I can get back on my feet. After this whole experience, I found out that my landlord followed up with the rent assistance group later and took the money anyway, even though they wouldn't take it at first and forced me out. If this bill were in place when I needed it last month, my son and I would still be in our home. I hope you will listen to people like me and vote yes on SB 799.

Thank you.

Elizabeth