



We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

Feb. 13, 2023

RE: Support for HB 2001 – Eviction Reform & Homelessness Prevention

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

My name is Shannon Vilhauer and I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the 24 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates we serve, I am writing to express Habitat for Humanity of Oregon's strong support of HB 2001 – an important element of the response to our housing crisis.

This bill ensures a focus on youth homelessness prevention, provides innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and contains critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. We appreciate that this bill is bipartisan and bicameral and the work that has been done to get to this point.

We urge your strong 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.
- Make the default judgment process more fair.
- Streamline the eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a procedural barrier to future housing stability.

Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and homelessness response. As Governor Kotek and legislative leaders like you 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. When unforeseen challenges arise, hardworking Oregonians from all corners of the state often need assistance to maintain stable housing. **We must act now to prevent the unnecessary and tragic generational harm that comes from eviction and displacement.**

Passage of HB 2001 will enhance our capacity to respond to youth homelessness, create innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and provide reasonable and critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. The bill is landmark legislation and reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are living with due housing instability, limited availability of services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

Thank you to every member of the legislature and to Governor Kotek for your fast action on this package to help our communities respond to the crisis of homelessness and to improve stability and safety for individuals and families across the state.

With heartfelt appreciation for your dedication, service and care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon M. Vilhauer".

Shannon M. Vilhauer, Executive Director