



Disability Rights Oregon

TO: Senate Committee on Housing
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: January 25, 2023
RE: Opposition to HB 2323

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

We strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as quickly as possible as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package that includes \$100 million in rent new rent assistance, SB 611 / HB 2733 to limit the exorbitant and abusive 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.

Re: Support for SB 799 to reduce evictions and prevent homelessness

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Corinne Schram and I represent Disability Rights Oregon writing in support of SB 799.

While there are no national or local statistics of how many evicted people experience homelessness, surveys in several communities say that between 12-37% of people who have been evicted became homeless at some point, or say eviction was a cause of homelessness. Even at the most conservative estimate, if 12% of the 2,000 eviction cases this month alone experienced homelessness, that increases our current crisis by 240 households statewide.

Preserving housing stability is essential for Oregonians with disabilities. According to an article by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from May 2022, approximately 1 in 4 adults in Oregon live with a disability. The 2022 Point-in-Time Count released on January 26, 2023, estimates there are approximately 3,381 persons with disabilities that are either unsheltered, in emergency shelter, or in transitional housing in Multnomah County alone. People with disabilities tend to have lower wages, higher unemployment rates, and higher poverty rates than people without disabilities. It is also more difficult for people with mobility impairments to find affordable, accessible rental housing based on a lower supply of such units. Therefore, it is imperative to do everything in our power to maintain the already somewhat tenuous housing stability for Oregonians living with disabilities.

Reducing evictions is an essential part of our 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.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or email her at mmoyer@droregon.org.