

Submitter:

Liz H

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2305

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2305, the three-strikes bill, before the House Committee on Housing and

I am a public servant providing assistance to community members experiencing conflict, financial hardships, disabilities and trauma. I am blessed that when I needed help civil servants and community organizers were empowered and funded to provide assistance. It's an honor to serve my community and help those experiencing a hardship. At a time when funding reductions are decimating programs that provide social services and emergency financial assistance, to add additional time pressure would be catastrophic. With our systems overtaxed and delays long its not a community members fault that assistance is slow moving. Don't punish vulnerable tenants because we have a broken system. Fund and expand services that resolve landlord tenant conflicts by providing tenants the education, financial assistance and mediation/legal services needed to move forward. That's what home providers need too: supported tenants with stabilized situations that are empowered to meet their financial obligations.

My experience working with vulnerable communities in Oregon gives me concern that this bill will unduly impact disabled tenants, tenants from marginalized communities, and tenants experiencing financial hardship. These groups are already over-policed by landlords, and establishing stable housing is a challenge for these groups.

This bill will make it easier for landlords to evict tenants for minor infractions. Although this is not the specific goal of the Bill's proponents, its overly broad nature will make it easy for bad actors to abuse it.

I sincerely urge you to protect Oregon's most vulnerable tenants by voting against HB 2305. You can aid those of us on the front lines of Oregon's housing crisis by focusing efforts on legislation that will make housing more available and more equitable for these groups.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,
Liz H