

Submitter: Zachary Lesher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

My name is, Zach. I live in Portland. I am testifying today in support of SB 799. Oregon is in a housing crisis. Rent has been skyrocketing while wages have not kept up, and many people lost their savings and financial safety nest during COVID. Lots of people are finding it hard to pay rent by the end of the month. Under the current system, a person that misses a rent payment can have their lease terminated in less than two weeks, and can have an eviction judgment against them in less than three weeks. This is not enough time. Tenants around the state are desperately applying to overloaded rental assistance programs, and getting evicted while their application is pending. Tenants are desperately calling on friends and family after an injury or illness sets them back, and are being removed from their homes as the checks are coming in.

We need more time. We need time to figure out how to get the money so we can stay in our homes. As a state we need to figure out how to avoid this destructive cycle and make sure fewer people are so on the edge, so they don't miss that payment in the first place. But in the meantime, please pass SB 799 so tenants can have the time to make ends meet and stay housed.

Sincerely,
Zach