

Tenants who are struggling to make their way back on their feet, new families, and tenants in rental assistance are some of the most susceptible to landlord harassment and no cause evictions. This bill makes renters in week-to-week and month-to-month housing more stable and secure. By eliminating the fear, that at each week or at the end of each month, those renters may get a notice on a whim in which they have to move their whole lives in 10 or 30 days, eliminates the precariousness of these renters. It allows them to plan, it allows them to put those worries to rest. It will allow people with children, who happen to be the most susceptible to evictions, more room to build healthy futures.

This bill also sets up damages that tenants can pursue if a landlord were to violate the new bill. This is good! But I can tell you what will happen based on my experience working with tenants: landlords will continue to act in disregard of the law, they will violate this bill if implemented. This bill would get us closer to an actual anti-harassment ordinance that we desperately need.

Many housing “specialists” have data on evictions, but not much data on untrackable self-evictions initiated by harassment: the time tested tool of the landlord class.

Simply put: these are tumultuous times for anyone who rents, and the landlord class shows no signs of stopping its profit drive. The landlord class is currently pursuing that profit despite the obvious consequence of death for tenants. The reasons people are getting evicted for now during the pandemic make the cases pre-covid look tame. People are getting evicted for having tv's too loud, having friends park in the wrong spot, and accusations that end up being proven completely false by brave tenants who chose to fight on their own because of the utter dearth of resources for tenants in Portland who are fighting eviction.

Right now, people are getting tossed out on the streets for for-cause evictions that are de-facto non-payment evictions and we are hearing low reports of parties having any communications before first appearances happen.

The hard truth: If landlords cared about people they wouldn't be acting like they do now. People know what care is versus disregard.

More hard truth: It is time for the state legislatures who call themselves “Community oriented” to stop acting as if the landlord class has anything in mind other than its pockets.

Its time to end the landlord class's onslaught on the working class here in Oregon, and across this stolen land.

Its time that the elected on this call start listening to the public testimony that overwhelmingly shows that we are tired of landlord abuse, and that things are changing and people are coming to the end of their patience.

Its time to cancel the rent.

If landlords cared about people we would be hearing about entire buildings receiving rent cancellation from the landlord themselves. But we are not. When they call themselves “Community Managers” I die trying to imagine a community that would willingly choose to pay up to 80% of their income to their community's manager instead of removing them from the community.

And since the American state protects landlords, you're also going to have to continue to need to keep acting to prevent landlords from continuing their grind against the working class.

Literally anything would help, and tenants need every inch of help they get, though they deserve way more, for it is tenants and their rent payments that sustain housing, not landlords. Yet again and again tenants are put at disadvantage compared to the wealthy and self sustaining landlord class. Tenants deserve this bill and they deserve more.