

Submitter: Marissa Csanyi
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 Homelessness.

I work with seniors and people with disabilities experiencing housing instability. There are many factors that contribute to housing instability for this demographic- rent increases that exceed retirement income, financial abuse, and high medical costs to name a few. Housing instability is likely going to become more and more widespread due to the rapid changes to funding for the programs this community relies on- such as Social Security, Medicare, transportation, social services that provide community and medical support, etc.

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 is written in a way that could easily be abused by landlords. Just because a landlord writes a 30 day notice, doesn't mean it's accurate or fair. This bill's overly broad nature will make it easier for landlords to evict tenants without due process. There is already a difficult process for seniors and people with disabilities to find the resources and support needed to handle an eviction notice. I've had many clients die from the stress of an eviction- both from negative health effects and by suicide. This bill will heighten an already stressful situation.

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,
Marissa