



TO: Senate Housing Committee
FROM: Basic Rights Oregon
DATE: 1/28/2023
RE: Support for SB 799

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

We strongly urge you to pass SB 799 as quickly as possible as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package.

Basic Rights Oregon is the advocacy organization for LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians, and our community is over-represented among Oregon's houseless population. LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians are more likely to face employment and housing discrimination, meaning even housed folks are often one missed rent payment away from being unhoused. In particular, transgender people are twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to cisgender people, according to the National Center on Transgender Equality.

This problem extends to LGBTQ2SIA+ youth, who are more likely to be in shelters, in the foster care system, and in our unhouse population. Unhoused youth are unable to wholly engage in their education, and are 27% less likely to graduate from high school than housed students.

The stakes are clear: In order to achieve true equality for LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians—now and for our future generations—we need to invest in preventing homelessness.

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.

We urge you to vote YES to advance SB 799, for our community and for all Oregonians. Thank you!