

Submitter: Gloria A

On Behalf Of: HB2001

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

RE: In support of HB 2001

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gloria Alvarez, I am a resident of the City of Hillsboro. I am writing in support of the Stable Homes for Oregon Families bill. We all deserve a safe home. The well-being of our neighbors and our communities depends on this basic need being met. Rent increases and evictions have disproportionately affected minorities. An ACLU study shows that black women in Oregon are twice as likely to face eviction. Minority Oregonians are the majority of renters due to existing barriers in the housing and employment system that prevent them from being able to own their own home. The average monthly evictions have increased by 43% compared to 2019. My family and I live in a welfare apartment that is specifically for migrant or farm workers. Recently, I had the opportunity to work part-time to help my family. This caused an increase of \$500.00 in rent in the new contract. My job, which was temporary, must now be permanent, because if I stop working I can't pay the rent. Also, we cannot afford to move to another apartment because they are more expensive than the welfare apartments. Fortunately we have the opportunity to pass this package of Homelessness Prevention measures in Oregon that would allow people who need it to access rental assistance. I would reform evictions to stop evictions from escalating and offer a safe period that prevents landlords from refusing to receive payments when people get the money or rental assistance is approved. It would put reasonable limits on rents so that people can pay for their housing and a registry would be established to know the exact number of rental units. Low-income families like mine should be able to work to improve our family's living conditions. Instead, we work to pay the rent, while now we spend less than before on food and other basic necessities. I ask for your support of this 2023 Oregon Homelessness Prevention Package! Sincerely, Gloria A