



February 14, 2023

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
From: Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Re: Support for HB 2001

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

My name is Ames Kessler-Templin and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2001 on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO).

PHFO is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger. At PHFO, we do not seek to just feed our neighbors, we seek our shared liberation from systems of oppression and to address the root causes of hunger. One of those causes is lack of affordable housing.

We are particularly writing to urge support of Sections 14-26 of HB 2001, which contain essential and reasonable negotiated improvements to Oregon's eviction statutes to promote stability and payment rather than displacement and eviction. These Sections of the bill:

- Expand the time after a notice of nonpayment before being taken to court from 72 hours to 10 days.
- Provide that nonpayment eviction notices and court forms should include information about where to find rent assistance and legal assistance, and provide access to translation of these forms.
- Amend first appearance and trial timelines to ensure that tenants have a greater chance of finding help before their hearing.
- Provide that an eviction case will be dismissed if payment is made before final judgment.
- Make the default judgment process more fair.
- Streamline the eviction sealing process for those who qualify for sealing, removing a procedural barrier to future housing stability.

In closing, passage of HB 2001 will enhance the capacity to respond to youth homelessness, create innovative approaches to addressing housing supply barriers, and provide reasonable and critical measures to help prevent eviction-caused homelessness. The bill reflects the urgency of the crisis too many Oregonians are living with due to lack of housing, inadequate services, and eviction statutes designed for displacement instead of stability.

This is why we urge you to pass SB 611 as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ames Kessler-Templin
Legislative Strategist
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

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