

Submitter: Ziven Szymanski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB799

I am a renter and Community Alliance of Tenants member whose housing stability is non-existent.

My family and I needed the Landlord Compensation Fund to keep us housed. We needed the OERAP to keep us housed. We needed other community organizations' support, including CAT, to keep us housed.

Our current household income is less than half of what it was before Covid.

While our rent, for the same apartment has increased by over \$300.

Last month, we needed a crowdfunding campaign to pay our rent. Right now it takes us 2 months of income to have 1 month of rent and utilities.

We have reached out to every community organization 211 sends you to when you need rent help. And every organization has told us they can't help us until we have an eviction notice. And then we still may not be helped.

We have been approved for a subsidized building, but the building we were approved for is still not complete. We were told move in would be July or August of 2022. We still do not have a move in date and we have not heard from the Company managing that property since September of 2022. At this point, we don't know that we will have the deposit to be able to move in to the subsidized housing.

Before we found that housing, we had been looking for over a year for housing that we can afford. None exists on the market.

Affordable housing wait lists have not been open. And the wait once people are on them can be years, even a whole decade long. We were told by Home Forward, the organization that manages Section 8 Vouchers in Multnomah County, that they have no more to give out, even though the need is great.

So, when renters do all of the things they are supposed to do to stay housed we are still kicked out of our homes and into the streets.

And telling our stories in a public setting is scary. Landlords evict renters for telling the truth about our relationships with them. So, if you hear from more landlords than tenants, this is one reason why. Another reason is that we are all busy working or are exhausted from working to try to pay the rent to engage with this legislative process.

We are not alone. So many people in our community are receiving eviction notices because the rent is too high. Landlords received all that money from the State of Oregon throughout the pandemic, millions of dollars from the People, but the People

of Oregon are still being cast out into the streets.

Any chance the State of Oregon can give renters to keep their current housing is needed. Housing is a human right.

Thank you for your time and attention.