

Submitter: Ryan Perkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB799
Subject - Vote YES on SB 799

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

My name is Ryan Perkins. I'm a renter in Keizer. I grew up in Salem and have lived in the area most of my life. I'm testifying in support of SB 799. We need to protect our people and our communities and pass the Homelessness Prevention Package.

While I was in graduate school out of state, I received a 30-day eviction notice for my apartment in Columbus, Ohio. My roommate and I had enough time to get support from our university's legal aid, which helped us to understand our rights and make a plan to move forward. Oregonians deserve the same.

An eviction notice is one of the most frightening and destabilizing things someone can experience, and on a timeline as accelerated as 72 hours, people have no recourse. If I had had only 72 hours, I would have panicked. Without time to access assistance, and with the looming threat of an eviction record, tenants like me don't know where to turn and many have no other options of where to live.

Rents have increased so drastically in Oregon over the last 8 years. I've been priced out of most places in town. If I were to get an eviction notice now, I truly wouldn't know what to do or how to get help. It's no secret that we're in a housing shortage. Our communities are in crisis. Yet again and again, we have prioritized profit over someone's right to shelter, safety, warmth, a place to sleep, to cook.

Everyone has a right to safe housing. Everyone deserves dignity.

In Oregon, we need reasonable rent increase limits. We need fair eviction laws. These bills are not enough but they make a difference. The Homelessness Prevention Package is common sense and we need to pass it now.

Thanks,
Ryan - Keizer, OR