

Submitter: Jordan Olson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

Dear Chair Dexter and members of the House Committee On Housing and Homelessness,

My name is, Jordan. I live in Portland. I am testifying today in support of HB 2001. Oregon is in a housing crisis. Rent has been skyrocketing while wages have not kept up, and many people lost their savings and financial safety net during COVID. Lots of people are finding it hard to pay rent by the end of the month. Under the current system, a person that misses a rent payment can have their lease terminated in less than two weeks, and can have an eviction judgment against them in less than three weeks. This is not enough time. Tenants around the state are desperately applying to overloaded rental assistance programs, and getting evicted while their application is pending. Tenants are desperately calling on friends and family after an injury or illness sets them back, and are being removed from their homes as the checks are coming in.

We need more time. We need time to figure out how to get the money so we can stay in our homes. As a state we need to figure out how to avoid this destructive cycle and make sure fewer people are so on the edge, so they don't miss that payment in the first place. I am disappointed that some but not all of the tenant protections were moved here from SB 799. Specifically, I think it's disgracefully that we are ready to let tenants get evicted while they have a pending rent assistance application. But what's missing does not make the changes in HB 2001 less essential. Please pass HB 2001 so tenants can have the time to make ends meet and stay housed.