



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: January 30, 2023
RE: In Support of SB 799

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee,

Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support families and help them succeed, both in the workplace and at home. We work to ensure that Oregon is a place where all families can be economically secure and have the time they need to take care of each other. We believe having a safe and stable home is a critical component to every family's success – it impacts a family's safety and security, their childrens' educational outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for the entire family. That is why we strongly support SB 799 which will reduce evictions and prevent homelessness for Oregonians.

Currently, evictions for non-payment are skyrocketing. Thanks to the pandemic protections from the 2022 legislative session, there were fewer evictions, and fewer people displaced from their homes. But still, there have been more than 2,000 court evictions a month, every single month since pandemic eviction protections expired in October. Before the pandemic, the average monthly rate was approximately \$1,500 a month. There has been an approximately 34% increase in evictions from before the pandemic. Eighty% of current eviction filings are because rent was late.

Multiple studies show that evictions affect Black, Indigenous, and other people of color significantly—especially those who identify as women. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report from 2022 found that the gap between wages and housing costs continues to be the largest for people of color, and particularly women of color¹. Among renters, 55% of Black households are cost-burdened and 53% of Latino households are cost-burdened, compared to 43% of white households. The disparities grow even starker for women of color: more than 70% of Black and Latina women earn an hourly wage that falls short of the one-bedroom Housing Wage.

There are also multigenerational effects of eviction for families—evictions harm babies in the womb and give them disadvantages that last a lifetime². According to a 2021 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association on evictions of pregnant women in Georgia, eviction during pregnancy – particularly during the second and third

¹ <https://nlihc.org/news/nlihc-releases-out-reach-2022-high-cost-housing-0>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7922232/>

trimester –showed an association with lower birth rates and gestational age. These findings suggest that eviction actions during pregnancy are associated with adverse birth outcomes, which have been shown to have lifelong and multigenerational consequences.

We must make evictions rare and when they do happen, more fair.

SB 799 would:

- Reinstate the increased time between nonpayment notice and eviction court from 72 hours to 10 days to give people time to access assistance.
- Reinstate the requirement to provide access to eviction information in the six most common languages spoken in Oregon.
- Reinstate information about how to access legal assistance.

We believe that SB 799 is a fair approach that gives people who are behind on their rent a reasonable amount of time to catch up and, if they need it, locate, apply and receive rent assistance. We strongly urge you to pass this bill as quickly as possible as part of the Homelessness Prevention Package which includes \$100 million in new rent assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 799.

Lisa Kwon
Policy Manager
Family Forward Oregon

