

To: Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee Re: Support for SB 608, Tenant Protections

My name is Courtney Lau Hee, and I have lived in Independence, Oregon for the past 4 years. I am writing to urge your support for SB 608 and increased protections against unjust eviction and economic displacement for the 40% of Oregon households that rent their homes.

I attend Western Oregon University and am currently part of the Monmouth Independence Tenants Union (MITU). MITU is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to serving the tenants of Monmouth and Independence, Oregon. We work for tenant justice through direct organizing, political advocacy, and community education. From being in MITU, I learned about my renting rights and what I can do to take action. I also had the opportunity to door knock in my community to help other renters understand their renting rights. During this process I came across many issues regarding no-cause evictions. Since these instances happened in the past, I wasn't able to assist them through there no-cause eviction but, I was able to talk to them about their renting rights as well as this bill that could potentially prevent them from being evicted for no-cause.

Our community is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. Renters are facing the threat of no-cause eviction and extreme rent increases at any time. Over the last two years, instead of this crisis being resolves, it has only gotten worst. Renters are being forced to leave their homes for no fault of their own with the threat of facing homelessness. Homelessness in our community is on the rise and no-cause evictions could be partly to blame.

Today you have the opportunity to help people like me and my neighbors, in communities across the state, by passing SB 608.

Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. That is what I want for myself and for my family and neighbors. Oregon's housing crises is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. **Please act now to support SB 608, protect against unfairness, and help renters maintain stability.**

Thank you,

Courtney Lau Hee

