



To:

Senate Committee on Housing
shous.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 4, 2019

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Housing Committee:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), I'm writing to express our **support for Senate Bill 608, Tenant Protection Bill**. As a statewide, grassroots organization, we work with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the state of Oregon to advance social justice. We believe *all* families deserve the rights, recognition, and resources they need to thrive.

Many of our members are low-income and working-class immigrants who live in rapidly gentrifying areas, making them more susceptible to rising rents and cost of living, homelessness, and redevelopment. We work to build power, health, and stability for the community in the Jade District by fighting for affordable housing, safe streets, an equitable community, and economic development. Yet many of our members still face significant cultural and language barriers and economic burdens.

One such member, named Jessica Li, lived in an apartment on 82nd Ave in Southeast Jade District close to Harrison Park Elementary School with her husband and two daughters who go to school there. In 2017, her building was sold to a California-based investment group who sent them a new lease renewal notice with a rent increase of 25%. As restaurant workers, she and her husband could not afford this, and they had to move out without any relocation assistance. Now, Jessica and her family have been further displaced to the outer edge of Portland, far away from her daughters' school and their community. The commute has cost additional time and placed a significant financial burden on Jessica, making it more difficult to get to work and to stay connected to her community and culture.

Portland has become a segregated city where people who work hard building, cleaning, and cooking in this city cannot afford to live in it. We must do better for our families.

We urge the Committee to vote yes for SB 608 to protect families from no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases, thus ensuring our families are not ripped from their homes and communities unjustly.



Oregon's housing crises are going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. We must act now to ensure the bright future of our state.

Sincerely,
Ivy Major-McDowall
Legislative Coordinator
APANO