

February 4th, 2019

To: The Senate Housing Committee

Re: Support of SB 608

Dear Chair Fagan,

My name is Michelle Hall and I live in NE Portland. I am sending my thoughts on housing and the effects it has on many families and individuals and to urge you support the Stable Housing Bill- SB 608. I was homeless for a period due to the loss of employment. I was able to maintain my housing for a couple of months. But once you have an eviction on your record it is extremely hard to regain housing because landlords don't want rent to you or you must make three times the rent which is almost impossible to do.

It is also hard to get services when you do not have an address, so it's almost like you need housing to find housing. I had trouble getting my mail, so access to services was difficult. I went to Catholic Charities and I didn't qualify for their programs. It was frustrating because the services were for people who use drugs, domestic violence survivors, or for people with mental illnesses. What about the person like me that has worked their whole life and hit a rough spot? Then I found the Family Housing Services program and after nine months, was able to find housing.

A cause for an eviction should be given and one should receive all their deposit back to be able to find affordable housing-not slumlord places in which they live in substandard housing. I believe we should end no cause evictions. Plus definitely create more affordable housing. Many people are on ssi/ssd and are not able to live in these new buildings because the standards are unrealistic. Most importantly we must stop making rent unaffordable for the average individual or family.

Signed,  
Michelle Hall