

To: The Senate Housing Committee

From: Kathy White

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

Support of SB 608: Housing Stability

Dear Chair Fagan,

My name is Kathy White and I live in Portland, OR. I write this letter to express my support for the upcoming policy on stable housing; SB 608.

As the law stands now, it has left me Homeless. I was placed on a low income housing list 2 years ago, in which the process takes time to get to the front on the line. When rent started to increase I applied for this program.

And this year rent has tripled the amount. Housing costs have increased as the years go by along with the rental policies and commitment and additional charges outside of the rent. Rent has surpassed ones income. I have met a lot of American individuals/families that have jobs but can not afford the high cost of housing/living even with a two(2) person income. They still lack enough income to maintain a standard of living.

If we did not have some of the programs here to help us develop higher levels of skill to compete in the job market, my income would remain at \$14 an hour. After completion of the program it will go to or up to \$17 to start. I had to move out of my residence due to the increase of rent and other charges I encountered like home insurance, car insurance, trash fee, electric and gas. I just could not make ends meet. Now I've lived in my van for over a year now and there is no improvement for the people who have worked to keep this country running, we have been left out on the streets.

All we ask of the policy, is just give tenants the right to protest the no cause evictions and for rent increase to stay at a steady rate. We have always been pleased with the \$50 per year increase, now it's 10

times the amount. Please focus on more affordable living, instead of profits.

I Thank you for this opportunity to address this matter that has gone against fair housing.

Kathy White