



February 4, 2019

SB 608 – Stable Homes

Chair Fagan and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 25,000 members of UFCW Local 555 in support of SB 608 to provide more protections for the 40% of Oregonians who rent their homes.

Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both rural and urban areas, renters face the threat of both no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases at any time. Renters forced to leave their homes face the very real threat of homelessness and it impacts all of us.

It will be years before Oregon's affordable housing supply catches up with demand. Meanwhile, nearly 22,000 Oregon children and youth don't have stable housing, leaving them 28.7% less likely to be on track to graduate on time. Children of color are particularly at risk. Young people are sleeping in cars, in tents, on couches, and in shelters. This statewide crisis is within our power to fix.

Our membership is comprised of workers in retail, manufacturing, health care, and many other industries. We are a diverse group of workers that have grown into being the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. UFCW Local 555's members are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, daughters and sons. Our families and all Oregon families need stable homes and we urge you to support SB 608 to take the first step in addressing Oregon's housing crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeff Anderson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer
UFCW Local 555