

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a first year student at the University of Oregon. Before coming to this institution, my family and I have lived in different parts of Portland. The first apartment I can recall living in was a two bedroom in NE Portland. The entire complex was majority Latinx and African American folks which were displaced due to the gentrification in the area. The rent increase was too high for many families which included mine and forced us to leave the area. The more I think about that time in my life, the more I remember my father scrambling to find us a new place to live.

After moving to almost the other side of Portland, my siblings and I went from the Portland Public district to David Douglas. Because they were older, they wanted to finish their high school years at the same school they had attended and this caused my siblings to have to commute to school for almost 2 hours for the next 4 years.

I can assure you that most of the families struggled to find new homes as much as we did due to the rent increase. This bill would help families like me who were once displaced act like a safety net and give them some time to reallocate without having to worry about a short notice. I understand that being a legislator is a highly stressful job but it is only right to support SB 608 by voting yes to pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar

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Legislative Intern, Oregon Student Association