



SCHOOL OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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TO: Chair Fagan and members of Senate Committee on Housing  
FROM: Oregon Health and Science University  
RE: SB 608: Support for Tenant Protections and Rent Stabilization

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

On behalf of Oregon Health and Science University, I am writing to express our support for SB 608.

I serve as the Founding Dean of the joint Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University School of Public Health. Throughout my career I have seen the growing body of evidence pointing to the importance of the social determinants of health in predicting health outcomes, and their correlation disparities in health outcomes. Access to stable and affordable housing is a foundational social determinant of health.

Everyone needs a safe and stable place to call home, and communities thrive when we work to create social and physical environment that promote good health for all. Health starts in our homes. Research has shown that there is a consistent link between health and housing. A lack of stable, affordable and adequate housing can have profound health consequences.

A study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found that “evictions, whether through formal court proceedings or other methods of involuntary displacement from housing, are a direct cause of homelessness.”<sup>1</sup>

People who rent their homes are depending on the Legislature to act to provide basic protections and stability. We know we need to address a range of issues to solve the housing problems our communities are facing, and it is critical the Legislature act now to pass SB 608. Please vote yes on SB 608.

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<sup>1</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. (2018). Protect Tenants, Reduce Homelessness . Washington DC: NLCHP.



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Thank you for your service and giving OHSU the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 608.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bangsberg".

David Bangsberg  
Founding Dean  
OHSU-PSU School of Public Health