
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

February 4th, 2019

Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee:

As the state's leading political voice for reproductive healthcare, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is proud to be a part of the Fair Shot for All coalition, which is making important advancements to ensure that all women and families in Oregon have a level playing field to achieve success. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon urges strong support of SB 608, to provide critical protection against unjust eviction and displacement for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes.

At Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, we know that stable housing is a social determinant of health. In Oregon, many landlords are doing right by their tenants. However, some landlords are using no-cause evictions to avoid the simple legal process for removing tenants, and others are imposing extreme rent increases that force families out of their homes and communities. Evictions with no reason and extreme rent increases cause immense financial hardship on working families that often require them to deplete their savings, force them into homelessness, and/or send them into a spiral of poverty. Even if a family does not lose their home, large rent increases mean families spend more of their income on housing, and less on other basic necessities like healthcare. Moreover, these practices disproportionately impact families of color, worsening inequities and pulling communities apart.

That is why we are writing to thank you for your consideration of SB 608. Oregon's housing crises is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon supports SB 608 because housing affects health outcomes and is an underlying, contributing factor of health inequities in Oregon. Planned Parenthood patients rely on stable homes in order to live healthy, successful lives, in which they are able to access the healthcare they need. We hope that you will join us in support of SB 608.

SB 608 has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises on the most vulnerable:

1. SB 608 ends the unjust use of no-cause evictions, ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not ripped from the homes unfairly.
2. SB 608 will curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents so that tenants can have some modicum of economic stability.

Sincerely,



Emily McLain
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon