



February 4, 2019

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Housing

From: Max Smith, Team Lead of Project HAVEN, Urban League of Portland

Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to respectfully urge your support of SB 608.

I lead the Urban League of Portland's permanent supportive housing program, Project HAVEN. HAVEN provides housing and intensive case management to chronically homeless individuals and families. Many of our participants are African Americans native to Portland who have experienced housing displacement due to rent hikes and no-cause evictions.

As Black Oregonians, their experiences of housing displacement and racism are inextricably linked. For a number of clients, case management entails providing counseling and emotional support to cope with the trauma of past experiences of housing displacement. We enjoy working with our participants and are proud to serve them with our culturally specific individualized case management model. But for the sake of the future of all of the Oregonians who have, like our participants, been negatively impacted by no-cause evictions and rent hikes, we strongly support SB 608.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Max Smith

Urban League of Portland