



Feb. 4, 2019

To: Sen. Fagan, Chair, Senate Housing Committee, and Committee Members

From: Katie Rose, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: SB 608 Support-Providing basic protections for Oregonians who rent their homes

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

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 36 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. We also have individual members who are self-advocates and family members of people who experience intellectual or developmental disabilities. We offer strong support for SB 608 which will allow basic protections and stability for Oregonians who rent their homes.

Housing gives all people the opportunity to build better lives. To succeed, you need a safe, appropriate and affordable place to call home. People experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families share similar stories with other Oregonians who rent their homes and struggle with no cause evictions and extreme rent increases.

For people experiencing disabilities and their families, home means a stable, appropriate and affordable place where they can have supports to live and work as valued members of Oregon communities. When their home is threatened by no cause eviction or extreme rent increases, their supports are jeopardized or interrupted. Without supports, their ability to be community members is destabilized. When people lose or delay their supports, they risk losing their jobs, relationships and community connections – which are the major aspects of being a community member.

Two of our members are currently holding focus groups around Oregon to hear from the intellectual and developmental disabilities community about what home means to them. The preliminary results are striking: housing stability matters. Affordability matters. The ability to continue to live where you are successful matters.

Our members heard from self-advocates and families that finding the right housing that is appropriate, decent and affordable is a major reason that self-advocates are able to work and live as valued community members. Our members also saw the extreme stress



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and feeling of powerlessness when people talked about having a home that worked for them, but feeling it was under threat constantly by no cause evictions and extreme rent increases.

Oregon has a long history of supporting people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities to be community members, living and working alongside their neighbors.

Now, Oregon has the opportunity to pass SB 608 and stabilize housing opportunity for people who rent their homes, which includes thousands of Oregonians with intellectual or developmental disabilities. We hear the urgency from our communities across Oregon – there is no time to wait.