

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

My name is Erin Goodling. I was born and raised in East Portland, and still live and work there today. I work closely as a researcher with three grassroots organizations: the Community Alliance of Tenants, Right 2 Survive, and the Portland Harbor Community Coalition. These groups, collectively representing thousands of Oregonians, share one core tenet: they are led by and work for poor people. We believe that EVERYONE deserves a safe, stable place to call home.

Too many people are forced to choose between rent and food, rent and medicine, rent and transportation. Elders, people with disabilities, people of color, and families are especially hard hit. Housing is foundational to building a better life. I have met countless people who work so, so hard, yet are still houseless or barely hanging on in their homes. Hardworking people should be able to afford housing and other basic necessities. They should not have to be scared to report mold to their landlords. They should not have to wonder if they will be homeless a month or two from now. We need stable homes, now.

Please vote yes on SB 608. It is imperative that you act now. Our families and communities cannot wait one more day for stable housing.

Thank you for your service, and for reading my letter.

Erin Goodling, PhD

--



**Erin Goodling**

Research Coordinator, Community Alliance of Tenants

She | Her

Renters' Rights Hotline - 503.288.0130 | [oregoncat.org](http://oregoncat.org)