



Senate Housing Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
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Sent via email: shous.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon, or HSCO. HSCO promotes the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy and strengthened support for human services. We are writing to you today in strong support of SB 608, which will provide basic protections for people who rent their homes.

HSCO represents a wide-range of organizations, all of whom believe in the dignity and stability of all Oregonians. Our members include health care providers, human services, organizations serving and representing people experiencing disabilities, housing providers, and more. Together, we have deep knowledge about the ways in which housing stability impacts the health and well being of our communities.

Without a safe, stable place to call home, the people our organizations represent and serve are unable to maintain their health, children struggle in school, and families experience stress and hardship. Housing is a social determinant of health. Without a home, it is difficult to maintain health, store and take medicines, and rest or recover from illness. No cause evictions and extreme rent increases can, for some residents of our state, cause homelessness.

No cause evictions and extreme rent increases also cause incredible stress for families. The clients that our members serve experience extreme stress about the risk of a no cause eviction or a rent increase they can't afford, and this extreme stress negatively impacts the health of families in our communities.

Today, across our state, three in four renters with extremely low incomes are paying more than half of their income towards rent. When people pay a significant amount of their income towards rent, it means there is too little left over for other basics, like food and medicine, and puts them at risk of homelessness.

SB 608 will provide basic stability for people across our state by restricting unfair, no cause evictions, and preventing unreasonable spikes in rent.

Housing instability impacts our families, workplaces, health care clinics, social service providers, and our communities. When people in our community and our state have access to stable housing, people are better able to care for themselves and their families, to go to work or maintain their health, and kids are better able to learn.

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. We urge you to support SB 608.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to our state.

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