

Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee

My name is Dung Ho, and I am a renter in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to urge your support for SB 608 and increased protections against unjust eviction and economic displacement for the 40% of Oregon households that rent their homes.

I have been working with renters throughout Oregon for the last 10 years and I have experienced my own challenges with renting in Oregon. As renters, we all share the same story, we're tired of being displaced from our homes for standing up for our rights and we're tired of being pushed out of our communities so landlords can make more of a profit. We can live in a state where everyone has access to opportunity and a decent, stable, affordable place to call home. By investing in housing opportunities, we can create an Oregon with a better future for all of us.

As you know, Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both urban and rural areas, renters face the threat of no-cause eviction and extreme rent increases at any time. Over the last two years, this crisis has only gotten worse in every county in the state. Renters forced to leave their homes for no fault of their own often face the very real threat of homelessness. Everyday, this crisis impacts me and my community. I was just at the Multnomah County Courthouse on Friday to help tenants with any evictions questions they might have at evictions court. One woman I spoke with was in tears, worried that she would have to return to being homeless on the streets. She had missed her rent payment due to medical issues. She was afraid for her children. Where would they sleep? She had called all of her family and friends, and no one could help. I wish I could say this story is uncommon but it isn't. Renters are struggling in Oregon.

Today you have the opportunity to help people like me and my neighbors, in communities across the state, by passing SB 608. Passage of SB 608 will quickly bring all of Oregon one step closer to what tenants need. The bill has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises on the most vulnerable:

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

Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. That is what I want for myself and for my family and neighbors. 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.

Please act now to support SB 608, protect against unfairness, and help renters maintain stability.

Thank you,
Dung Ho

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Dung Ho

Tenant Support and Education Director,
Community Alliance of Tenants

Gender Pronouns: She | Her

Renters' Rights Hotline - 503.288.0130 | oregoncat.org