

**From:**  
**To:** [Exhibits SHOUS](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB 608 Tenant Protections  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:21:54 PM

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Hello Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee, the letter below is from Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) volunteer, Sharon Eldridge.

Thank you,  
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To: Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee  
Re: Support for SB 608, Tenant Protections

My name is Sharon Eldridge, and I am a volunteer in the Letter Writing Clinic (LWC) at Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT). Many tenants I work with have been given no-cause termination notices. I see firsthand the stress that comes with these, sometimes from tenants already dealing with medical conditions (that are exacerbated by the stress of their termination notices). Some others express fear of retaliation, including eviction, if they complain to their landlord about anything. Some are told, "If you don't like (fill-in-the-blank), leave!" As you may know, the rental market in Portland is extremely tight, and very expensive. It is not -- and hasn't been in a decade -- realistic for a tenant, especially with a family, to just pick up and move if they're unhappy with their rental housing situation; it is just not economically feasible for most tenants. It is a landlord's/owner's market, and those landlords and owners know it. It is not fair or just to terminate the leases of good tenants who pay their rent on time just because they dare to assert their rights by asking for repairs, reasonable accommodations, etc., or because the owners/landlords simply want to collect more money. I ask that you pass this bill to protect vulnerable tenants. Protecting renters helps stabilize households, communities, schools, etc.

Thank you,  
Sharon Eldridge

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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](http://oregoncat.org)