



February 5, 2019

Dear Legislator:

As the Executive Director for Emerj-SafeNow, a nonprofit that works with vulnerable communities and populations in Portland and Multnomah County, I am writing to ask you to support of SB 608. This bill provides essential protections against no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes.

As you know, we have a housing crisis in Portland and our most vulnerable populations, women, children, folks with disabilities and communities that have experienced the most hardship are unfairly impacted. Sadly, survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence experience this the most. Fair, stable, affordable housing is critical to survivors' ability to escape violence and protect themselves and their children.

EMERJ as a nonprofit works with vulnerable populations to reduce and end gendered violence. We experience first hand the impact of homelessness and poverty working in schools and with community centers. No cause evictions are often used as a tool to discriminate against victims, people of color and survivors. Additionally, women and children who are displaced by extreme rent increases or no-cause evictions are made more vulnerable to perpetrators of abuse or assault. It is impossible to escape abuse if you cannot afford to pay rent. When victims of violence have safety and housing stability, they can begin to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children.

Thank you for your hard work. On behalf of EMERJ-SafeNow, please vote YES to pass SB 608 so that vulnerable families in OR are protected against sudden displacement by no-cause eviction or extreme rent increase at any time. Oregonians deserve safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

C. Haycraft

Carolyn Haycraft

Executive Director

EmerjSafeNow