



Memorandum

To: Rep. Keny-Guyer, Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Rep. Noble, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Rep. Sanchez, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Danielle Sobel, OPCA State and Federal Policy Director
Marty Carty, OPCA Policy Senior Manager

Date: February 14, 2019

Re: Support for SB 608 as introduced – Tenant Protections and Rent Stabilization

On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), we respectfully request your support for SB 608 as introduced. OPCA is a non-profit organization, with a mission to support Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Community health centers deliver integrated primary care, including dental and behavioral health services, to over **430,000 Oregonians annually**. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including **one in four Oregon Health Plan members**.

Many of Oregon's community health centers serve patients without stable housing. Providers and care teams see firsthand how a lack of safe and affordable housing can lead to **poor health outcomes** and **increased cost to the healthcare system**. Individuals who don't have stable, secure places to call home are less likely to eat healthy diets, take medication as prescribed, and maintain jobs and/or school attendance – all leading to downstream health complications. SB 608 helps create essential housing stability for renters by providing significant protections against no-cause evictions and unregulated rent increases that price Oregon families out of homes. **We need the Legislature to act to protect the 4 in 10 Oregonians who rent their homes.**

OPCA believes this bill is fair to landlords while still ensuring tenant's homes—and opportunity to reach full health potential—are protected. We know that stable housing is critical to the health of the patients served at community health centers around the state.

We urge you to support SB 608 as introduced because everyone deserves a safe, stable place to call home.

Oregon Primary Care Association
Leading the transformation of care to achieve health equity for all