

February 14, 2019

To: Representative Keny-Guyer and Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee  
Re: Support for SB 608, Tenant Protections

For any child to achieve their full potential their basic needs of shelter, food, water and safety must be provided for. With love and nourishment a child can engage the world with confidence. This is true for many children in our state however 47% of children in Oregon are being raised in low- income families. In rural counties, nearly half of single-parent families are living in poverty. Families are faced with growing economic insecurity and rural communities as well as communities of color are the hardest hit by stagnated incomes while the cost of child care and housing keeps increasing.

Current Oregon law fails to protect those most vulnerable and unfortunately the stories of tenants that are bullied by landlords are common. I have several stories of my own, the first time we were force to move a corporation had bought the unit we lived in and they did not want long term rentals, just vacation rentals. That set the tone for years of struggle to get stable housing.

Conditions of poverty, including unstable or substandard housing and parental stress create adverse childhood experiences that makes kids more likely to suffer poorer health and is associated with lower long-term academic achievement and well as employment and earning power as adults.

Oregon is experiencing widening socioeconomic disparities, we live in economically segregated neighborhoods and this has a direct impact of our children's future achievement. I support SB 608 because we must protect the basic right of shelter for all of Oregon children. The future outcomes of our state will be directly tied to how well we ensured fair and stable housing for all.

Sincerely,

Joanne Mina

Statistics and information from the Oregon Community Foundation - Tracking Oregon's Progress Report.  
Nov.2017