



Good afternoon, Chair Keny-Guyer and Vice-Chairs Sanchez and Noble.

For the record my name is Jackie Yerby. I am the Director of Advocacy & Civic Engagement for the Urban League of Portland. Founded in 1945, the Urban League is one of the oldest civil rights, social justice, and direct service organizations west of the Mississippi. We're located in the historic Albina neighborhood - a neighborhood where Black Oregonians were redlined into, but where many can no longer afford to live due to the high cost of housing. Helping people get and stay housed is a significant part of the Urban League's direct service portfolio.

We work with a lot of people who face significant housing instability because of rising rents that people can't afford and because of no cause evictions in some cases as others have testified for complaining about unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

We work with people like Lanise who shared her story with us:

I'm getting rental assistance because my rent is so high now. I'm still looking for more work. I'm also trying to go to school for my Master's degree. It worries me, that I have to worry about high rent, while getting my education.

My rent was \$625.00 when I first moved in. Now I'm paying 925.00 plus keeping my heat on. I've also had to get energy assistance, and I have a college degree.

Thanks for listening to my story. It's refreshing to know that there are people who care and want to make the lives of Black Oregonians better.

When I asked if I could use her first name in my testimony, Lanise said yes. She also wrote, "I feel so blessed to have my story used in your effort to make housing affordable for Black Oregonians. Good luck. I wish you well wishes."

On behalf of Lanise and the Urban League of Portland, thank you for taking this important step to bring stability to Lanise and the countless others who have had their lives disrupted by this housing crisis.