



Carla C. Piluso
State Representative, House District 50
900 Court St. NE, H-491, Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1450
rep.carlapiluso@oregonlegislature.gov

April 29th, 2019

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
RE: SB 278

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the Great City of Gresham. I am excited to come before you today to testify in support of Senate Bill 278, which will make stable housing more accessible to former foster youth.

The average 18 year old can't meet the standard requirements for rental housing, due to their low incomes and lack of credit and rental history. However, many young people from traditional families have adults who can co-sign for them and help them cover the cost of living.

Youth who turn eighteen while in foster care go out into the world facing significant challenges. They likely do not have an adult who can co-sign for them or help with rent. Many foster youth live with the effects of trauma, and don't have access to the same safety nets as other kids. It can be incredibly difficult for them to find and keep stable housing.

SB 278, which has no fiscal, makes former foster youth eligible for the established Rent Well program. Participants take a course that includes tenant rights, budgeting, and how to read a lease. Once they do find housing, if a participant misses rent or causes damages, landlords can tap into a fund to cover the expenses. This program supports landlords who choose to participate, while allowing the state to vouch for these young people as they enter adulthood. We have committed to providing these young people with a healthy childhood, and this program puts them on the path to a happy and healthy adulthood.

I am proud to support SB 278, and ask for your support as well.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50