

Submitter: Mykel Hibbard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB603

“My name is Mykel Hibbard, I am a proud member of Residents Organizing for Change, (ROC), a statewide network of advocates who are speaking up to have a lasting impact on Housing Policy in the state of Oregon.

As a disabled senior living in low income housing here in Portland, I believe that i fit into the category of being "Rent Poor."More than two thirds of my Social Security Benefit goes to pay rent. I get a small amount of Snap benefits that does not stretch very far. There is always more month than there is resources. 2023 SB 603 would nit only improve my living situation, but more importantly, it would relieve stress and allow me to be more productive in contribute back to my community. Seniors have a lot to offer the community, but when you spend most of your time just trying to survive and stay housed, it leaves you drained and with little to offer in the way of giving back. You cannot give way what you don't have.

With the passage of SB603 and the ability to stay housed, I believe i could give back to my community in a significant way. Having a place to call home is paramount to being a contributing member of our society and gives one a sense of human dignity. SB 603 levels the playing field so we all have the opportunity to experience life in Oregon with with our basic needs met and an opportunity to grow and thrive. I believe that SB603 is a sensible investment in the people who are often forgotten, but who given the opportunity could have a better shot at self determination.