

Submitter: Victory Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB603

Hello. My name is Victory Hall and I'm writing in support of SB603. I live in the Hazelwood neighborhood, which is in Senate district 24 and Chairman Jama is my Senator. I have lived in my apartment for nearly eight years and don't want to move. I can't afford to move. Although it's been many years now, I've experienced being homeless and housing security is very important for me. If there had been a program like SB603 I wouldn't have lost my housing previously. It was due to unforeseen circumstances as is often the case, and after a few months of draining my savings and liquidating every asset I had I ended up with nothing and no place to live. I was a single mom with a teenage daughter at the time and my son was away at college. I was working, but to come up with deposits and all it takes to get into housing took a few months and not having housing is expensive. Access to a program like SB603 once I was in housing again would have helped ease the burden of starting over.

During COVID when the stimulus money was given I was working with residents in a supportive service role and I witnessed the folks on my case load take great care to use that money to fill the needs they foresaw in case the pandemic continued and they became unable to pay their rent or meet their basic needs. The stigma of low income, and homeless people is unfair and incorrect. They are not all the same. Please support the passage of SB603 to keep roofs over Oregonians heads as we can all agree we don't need any more folks houseless.

Thank you,

Victory Hall