

Submitter: Whitney Donielson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967
02/15/2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson,

I urge you to pass HB 2967 to prohibit landlords from charging application fees. These fees create a major financial burden for low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing.

I have been a renter for my entire adult life, most of it in Oregon, and have experienced firsthand the burden that application fees place on renters--every time my spouse and I move, we both have to pay \$40 to \$50 each in application fees just to find a new place. If we apply for more than one housing unit, it costs, at minimum, \$100 to find a new place to live, and often more, since, with the tight rental market, it's often necessary to apply to multiple units in order to secure a place to live. This does not include the financial strain of what often amounts to a nonrefundable security deposit, cleaning deposit, and first and last month rent, as well as other moving costs.

These fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations. Landlords have little incentive to keep these fees low. Existing regulations make it difficult for tenants to enforce their rights.

Eliminating these fees will help reduce barriers to housing and give renters a better chance at stability. Please, ban application fees, and make stable housing easier for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Whitney

