

Submitter: Brandon Stout
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3974
Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

I work hard—every day—and still, it feels like I'm barely keeping up. The cost of living in Oregon just keeps going up, and now even just applying for a place to live comes with a price tag that doesn't make sense. It doesn't cost much to run a background or credit check—so why are renters being charged more than the actual cost to obtain necessary screening criteria? With rents already sky-high, these inflated application fees feel less like a necessity and more like an intentionally placed barrier. We're not asking for a handout—we're asking for fairness in a system that profits off people just trying to secure a basic human need: a safe place to call home.

I urge you to pass HB 3974, capping application fees at \$20. These fees place a significant burden on low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing, particularly for marginalized communities. As a result, many families remain in unstable living conditions. With this cap, landlords can still check all essential criteria—credit, background, and rental history—without overcharging applicants. Passing this bill would not only reduce barriers to housing but also increase community safety by providing more people access to stable housing.

Thank you.