

Submitter: Jerome Gangle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB847

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Portland, Oregon

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TO CHAIR JAMA AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND HOMELESSNESS

Testimony for Senate Bill 847

IN SUPPORT

As a student, a voter, and a Portland City resident, I have felt the brunt of the housing crisis. I am not the only one. My uncle, an intelligent and hardworking man has been left out on the street for many years now due to the housing crisis. My family and I have worked tirelessly to scrape together the means to find him affordable, stable housing to offer. Our efforts so far have been futile, as we have watched helplessly as the price of housing rise steadily beyond our collective means. What kind of system is this?

The current planning laws and building regulations care about many things. Shadows cast by buildings, bird glazing for glass, separating the places where people work from the places where people live. What my experiences in the housing market have taught me, is that people in poverty are not one of these vital considerations. This has created an emergency, whether it is officially declared, there is one, and we all feel it. Is the suffering created by separating residences from commercial zones worth it for the supposed virtues of "rational" planning worth it? What is the use of separating one type of housing from another, if not merely to divide people?

We need immediate legislation like Senate Bill 847 to deal with our immediate problems. The more that we delay implementing fixes like these the worse the problem is going to get. There is no closing our eyes and pretending that nothing is wrong when it is your own community, your own family. I do not have the luxury of ignoring the housing crisis. That is why I support Senate Bill 847.