

Submitter: Sheryl McGovern
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,

As a homeowner and landlord in Bend, Oregon, I don't believe people should have to pay anything to be screened as tenants. Running a background or credit check costs very little, and I've successfully rented to countless tenants without charging these astronomical fees that so many landlords claim are necessary. Too often, landlords pass these fees on to tenants not because the costs are truly high, but because they're unwilling to explore more cost-effective options. It's unfair to put that unnecessary burden on people who are already struggling to find housing.

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.