

Submitter: CELINA MUÑOZ
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967
02/19/2025
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Dear representative,

I urge you to support HB 2967 to prohibit rental application fees. Fees to apply to rent a unit are used to exploit renters' out of any financial stability we may have. These fees create a major financial burden for all renters, especially low-income renters. They make it harder to secure stable housing.

Having to pay rental application fees for each hopeful apartment only to be denied is exhausting and expensive. Moving already requires an exorbitant amount of hurdles & expense: Moving truck rental fees, lost security deposits, income requirements, credit checks, landlord referrals, pet deposits or monthly pet rent to just name a few! You essentially have to have ready a lump sum of money saved, a high-paying job or a co-signer if not, and have a "rental resume" just to even be considered for housing. It's not affordable, efficient, or accessible when housing should be!

HB 2967 is directly related to #5 of the Renters' Bill of Rights (issue campaign created by renters for renters) that I support. I am a renter. Renters should be the authority on the costs that affect them, not landlords because of the unavoidable imbalance of power that exists in that relationship.

Rental application fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations because we cannot afford to pay several application fees in order to move when we need to. Not only are fees of this sort a financial burden to renters, when landlords don't know their rights AND responsibilities, but these fees become a justice and education burden put onto renters as well when we have to teach landlords that they owe us the money back if they deny our application.

Fees of this sort exacerbate housing insecurity, limit access to affordable housing and cause renters to have to educate those who already have immense power over their access to a roof over our heads.

Current Oregon law is not helping renters enough.

I urge you to put renter needs above landlord wants.

I urge you to pass HB 2967 and use your power to support the Renters' Bill of Rights.
PDXRenterPower.com

Eliminating fees like application fees will help reduce barriers to housing and give
renters a better chance at housing stability and financial stability.

Thank you for your time,
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