



February 26, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Housing and Development Committee
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Timothy Morris and I serve as the Executive Director of the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association. SETA is a non-profit, public service organization that is dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide a free hotline as community support and we are often times a renter's first call when they receive an eviction notice. The demand for our services has skyrocketed from 2020 to present, where we presently resolve over 230 cases a month.

SETA puts our support and endorsement behind SB 601.

Oregon is experiencing an unprecedented affordable housing crisis. Nearly half of all OR renters in the state are cost-burdened (spend more than 30% of income on housing), and nearly a quarter of all OR renters pay more than [half their income on rent](#). The housing cost-burden is even more severe for low income renters in OR ([NLIHC](#)).

Communities already facing historical and systemic barriers to jobs, housing, health care, opportunity, and wealth are paying an unfair price for Oregon's unfair and rushed eviction laws.

On average, landlords filed evictions against Black women renters at double the rate of or higher than their white renters in Oregon and in 16 other states, according to the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and Data Analytics team. Opportunities for home ownership not only support renters' ability to remove themselves from the unfair circle of evictions but also support addressing decades of generational wealth and systematic racism caused by decades of redlining.

We strongly urge you to pass SB 601. If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfieldeugenetenantassociation.com or call me at 541-357-7331. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association.