

Submitter: Kalei Elliott
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 renter in Eugene, I've often had to pay multiple application fees just to have a shot at securing housing—especially since the more affordable and desirable units are rented out almost immediately. More and more, property management companies require tenants to pay the application fee just to schedule a showing, which means you're spending money before even seeing the place. I've known many people who felt pressured to accept leases at properties they weren't comfortable with simply because they couldn't afford to lose the application fee they already paid. Capping these fees at \$20 would significantly reduce the financial burden and make the housing search more fair and accessible for renters like me.

I urge you to pass HB 3974. These fees place a disproportionate burden on low-income renters, making it even harder to secure stable housing—especially for marginalized communities. Landlords can still conduct necessary screenings without overcharging applicants. This bill would reduce housing barriers and promote safer, more stable communities across Oregon.

Thank you.