

Submitter: Mysti Frost
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967
February 15, 2025.

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and other members of the committee.

I urge you to pass HB 2967 to prohibit landlords from charging application fees. These fees create a major financial burden for low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing.

My family has lived Lane County since 1980. I am a single mother, I work full-time supporting folks with addition disorders, and I am a student at Portland State University hoping to obtain my MSW. I am a longtime renter and have personally experienced no cause eviction and have paid thousands of dollars in application fees over the course of my life. These application fees posed a direct barrier for my family. Instead of spending that money on food, clothes, and first/last/deposit fees, the money was pocketed by landlords and I often did not get the place.

As you know, moving is very expensive and poses a great risk for homelessness for low income families, if they are not able to find affordable housing in time. When families are forced into homelessness it puts a strain on our society, not to forget the emotional distress and impact it has on families directly. At this time, those of us with the power to do so, should remove any barrier we can to keep families and individuals housed.

These fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations. Landlords have little incentive to keep these fees low. Existing regulations make it difficult for tenants to enforce their rights.

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mysti Frost