

Submitter: Benjamin Platt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967
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.

When my wife and I first moved to Portland and were looking for housing, the market was highly competitive due to the low availability of housing in our budget. We probably spent around \$500 total in application fees applying to place after place, not due to any insufficiencies in our application, but simply due to not being fast enough when the applications went live. We were lucky enough to have a support system in place that allowed us to weather those additional, unpredictable costs, but many aren't so lucky, and the competitiveness of housing isn't going anywhere with the housing deficit we still face across the state.

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.

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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