

Submitter: Debbie Peck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3974

I urge you to pass HB 3974, capping application fees at \$20. These fees place a significant burden on low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing, particularly for marginalized communities. As a result, many families remain in unstable living conditions.

I am a retired elderly woman on a very-low fixed income, reliant solely on social security to make ends meet. I have been living in the same unit for 18 years and have been unable to consider moving because of barriers like high application fees. Currently, one application fee would cost me approximately 10% of my livable income. I am capable of providing the necessary documents for a landlord to screen me at a much lower cost so my question is; Why should profit continue to be prioritized?

With this cap, landlords can still check all essential criteria—credit, background, and rental history—without overcharging applicants. Passing this bill would not only reduce barriers to housing but also increase community safety by providing more people access to stable housing.