

UCP Connections

305 NE 102nd Ave Suite 100
Portland OR 97220

March 15, 2023

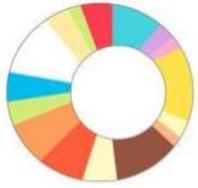
To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: UCP Connections & UCP Mentors Re: Support for HB 3237

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Helfrich and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

My name is Glenna Hayes and I am the Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator for UCP Connections and UCP Mentors. We are an organization that supports people 18 years and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Clackamas County and Multnomah County with case management services to help choose, arrange, and monitor the supports they need to live on their own or in their family homes within the community. I am writing on behalf of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors in support of HB3237.

Many members of our community are on a fixed and/or low income. Housing is a very big barrier to many we support due to the cost. Even with those barriers many of our customers have a goal to find housing outside of their family to have an independent life. When our folks have access to housing it also provides them with more choices in how they can receive supports and services. For example, without independent housing the only other options are group/foster homes or remaining with family which is not always an option if the individual does not have family or a form of natural supports. When we support customers in finding housing a large barrier is the cost of screening fees. Here in Portland they can go between \$50-\$75 per person when applying for places. When individuals are looking for housing we suggest they save around \$150-\$200 (for this that is only 4 applications) just for the application fees. Due to the income many of our customers receive this can take months to achieve this. That on top of saving up for deposit, cost to move, and first month's rent moving cost can total upwards and beyond \$1,500.



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With these barriers due to income, screen fees, cost of moving, finding affordable rent in a livable place it can take some of our customer's years to move into independent housing. This can cause a lot of pressure on natural supports and our customers when having to remain in their home. For some this can lead to abuse and neglect, or force them to move into a group/foster home even if that is not the desired goal for the individual.

We support this piece of legislation because we see it as a step to address some of the financial barriers many folks are facing when trying to access housing.

Sincerely,

Glenna Hayes

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors