

Submitter: Kathryn Francis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3974

Hello, thank you for your time today.

Finding a safe and stable place to live is difficult. I live in Oregon and in 2019, my friend offered to let me live in his house for one month while I looked for housing. I looked for housing every single day for seven months. Eventually, he had to start charging me rent. I applied to so many places, only to have them turn me down because the vacancy was filled before they considered my application. It was humiliating and it was terrifying. I was so lucky to have a friend looking out for me or else I would have been homeless and trying to save up money just to apply to a safe place to live—and end up passed over again and again. Many people don't have the ability to stay with a friend. They're applying to find safety and fulfill a basic need. They're have to apply so many places. If it costs a lot of money, they're going to run out of the money they desperately needed in order to pay for rent. The majority of Americans are only one or two paychecks (usually one!) away from losing their housing. The majority of Americans are currently below the poverty line. And the unhoused population in Oregon is quite intolerably high. This bill, which would limit the fee for applications, only makes sense. If we do not build a ceiling, rich landlords will take advantage of everyone. They won't even have to fill their vacancies because it will end up being cheaper to keep the apartment open and "looking for renters". Meanwhile, the unhoused population of Oregonians will increase more and more. This bill makes sense. This bill goes towards supporting safe housing for hardworking Oregonians. This bill is a good thing. Let's approve it!