

Submitter: Maria Winczewski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3974

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Maria Winczewski, and I am writing in strong support of HB 3974, which would cap rental application fees at \$20.

I work as a community support social worker in Multnomah County, serving families who would be directly and positively impacted by this legislation. Many of my clients are single mothers with multiple children, often spending months or even years on affordable housing waitlists. They navigate complex online systems, frequently relying on public resources such as library computers, all while balancing overwhelming demands on their time and finances.

In my role as an ISRS provider for families with open CPS cases, I have the privilege of supporting people during some of the most difficult periods of their lives. I see firsthand the exhaustion of overworked parents holding multiple jobs just to cover basic necessities like groceries. These are parents who often lack access to laptops, digital literacy, or the time and energy to advocate for themselves.

Capping rental application fees at \$20 would make a real difference. For families counting every dollar, this small change could mean the difference between being able to apply for housing or being forced to stay in unsafe or unstable conditions. It would remove one of many barriers that make the housing search process inaccessible, and it would directly support the people who need help the most.

On behalf of the families I work with, who may not be able to speak up for themselves, I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB 3974. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Winczewski