



**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY**

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Housing  
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County  
Re: Support for SB 608  
Date: February 1, 2019

Dear Chair Fagan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 102,000 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to vote Yes on Senate Bill 608, which would provide relief to those facing the brunt of the housing crisis in our state by creating and enforcing just-cause standards before Oregon families can be evicted from their homes.

Democrats in Lane County strongly believe that every Oregonian deserves a safe, stable and affordable place to call home.

At a recent renter protection listening session held on the University of Oregon campus, the facilitator asked the assembled students to raise their hands if they or someone they knew experienced a significant life disruption due to being no-cause evicted. Every person in the room raised their hand.

This is not surprising. Under the current landlord-tenant law, working families in our state can be evicted from their homes without cause and with as few as 30-days' notice, even if they have followed the rules and paid their rent in full and on time. During the 2016 short session, the Legislature took decisive action by extending the notice of rent increases to 90 days. It's time to circle back and establish just-cause standards for evictions or at least extend no-cause eviction notice to 90 days.

No-cause evictions are a key driver of homelessness in Lane County, and resources that provide services and transitional housing to unhoused members of our community will remain under severe strain unless something can be done to prevent low-income people from losing their housing.

SB 608 will provide needed protection to working families in Oregon by preventing them from becoming displaced without a valid reason. In addition, SB 608 will provide greater protection from discrimination for members of protected classes under federal, state and local laws.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to create a safe, prosperous and enduring Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig  
Chair  
Democratic Party of Lane County