



**Center Against
Rape and
Domestic Violence**

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February 1, 2019

To: Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Housing Committee

RE: Support for SB 608

I am writing on behalf of the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV) to ask you to support SB 608. This bill will provide important protections against no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes. Affordable, secure housing is vital for a domestic and/or sexual violence survivors to create and maintain safety for themselves and their children.

CARDV provides services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Linn and Benton Counties. The crisis and support services we provide include emergency shelter for those fleeing domestic and sexual violence, case management to help find housing and supportive housing services to stabilize someone after they have moved into a permanent home. The survivors we work with are part of the 40% of Oregon households renting. Housing instability is one of the highest concerns for survivors and families we are working with.

The housing crisis in Oregon has a disproportionate impact on domestic and sexual violence survivors. Housing stability is imperative for survivor safety after leaving an abusive partner. No cause evictions create a burden for survivors and affects their ability to remain safe if they have to scramble to find housing or face homelessness. Extreme rent increases are also a huge barrier to a survivor's ability to maintain a stable, safe home. The inventory of affordable housing in our community is incredibly low and creates difficult choices for those seeking safety.

For domestic violence survivors, there are few options when affordable housing or safe, confidential shelter housing is not available: Stay in an abusive home because moving out is not affordable, become homeless, or move into unsafe, overcrowded living situations with multiple families in housing designed for single families. All these options create dangerous situations that have negative impacts on survivors' health, lives, and safety. The best option for survivors is to have access to affordable, safe housing.

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Domestic and sexual violence survivors are a vulnerable population that deserve protection against extreme rent increases and no cause evictions. I urge you to make an impact today by supporting SB 608 to help create safe, affordable, fair housing in Oregon.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments. Thank you for your investment in Oregon and involvement on the Housing Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Letetia Wilson', is positioned above the printed name.

Letetia Wilson
Executive Director