

February 3, 2018

Senate Committee on Housing  
900 Court St. NE, H272  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, and committee members,

This letter articulates 211info's support for SB 608, providing critical protection against unjust eviction and displacement for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes.

211info connects Oregonians with the services they need. Between July 2017 and June 2018, 211info fielded 214,259 service inquiries across our phone, text, email and mobile app platforms. Of these requests, 35% were related to housing; and 74% of respondents identified having income under 100% of the federal poverty level and 26% reported being currently homeless.

Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both urban and rural areas, we hear from renters who feel the impacts of no-cause evictions and rent increases. Renters forced to leave their homes for no fault of their own often face the very real threat of homelessness.

211info is proud to support legislation that keeps Oregon families in their homes. Safe, healthy, affordable housing is a key social determinant of health. The social determinants of health are those conditions where people live, work, learn and play. When we work to improve these core functions, we will realize the benefits through improved health, lower health costs, better educational performance and other key indicators of thriving communities.

SB 608 has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises on the most vulnerable:

1. It ends the use of no-cause evictions, ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not ripped from the homes unfairly.
2. It will curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents.

Oregon's housing crisis is going to require dozens of solutions; protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable and affordable place to call home. Because of this, we urge the Senate Committee on Housing and both chambers of the Legislature to support the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. 211info stands ready to provide any additional information or data that helps facilitate this process.

Sincerely,



Dan Herman  
Chief Executive Officer