

February 3, 2019

ATTN: Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee

RE: Support of SB 608

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Senator Golden, and Honorable Members of the Committee

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 608 to help address the mitigating issues of the housing crisis in Southern Oregon. As an elected representative of the largest city in our region, I can attest that our housing inventory and market have experienced significant issues to which this bill can help ameliorate.

Though this is not a silver bullet, it is one implement we can have in our capacity when fighting what is essentially a war against homelessness, the risk of homelessness, and the penalization of lower income and working class families.

In our Medford School District, we have over 1000 students registered at the beginning of the year as being homeless. This is unacceptable. In addition to homeless children, we have a very large senior and aging population that are also increasingly becoming at risk of losing their homes.

Senate Bill 608 is not the only answer, but it will help to support our work towards the answers we need.

Please support Senate Bill 608 and support our tenants in Southern Oregon.

Councilwoman Kay Brooks

City of Medford, Ward 3