

2/4/19

To : Senate Housing Committee

The Honorable Sen. Shemia Fagan, Sen. Housing Committee Chair, and Sen. Fred Girod , Vice-Chair

Re: SB 608

My name is David Smith.

I live in SE Portland.

I'm 70 years old now, retired with some disabilities. I care for my grandchildren 4 days a week

I do volunteer work 3 – 4 days a week. I volunteer a 4 hour shift each week at the Renters Rights Hotline.

I hear stories of poverty and landlord abuse that exceed imagination.

I'm very familiar with the woes of fixed income seniors, the disabled, and the poor.

This is where help is needed most.

All of our State Senators and Representatives must hear cries for help with housing issues from all sides and classes.

And I congratulate you all for your initial efforts, But you fail to aid the helpless and needy.

I'm still digesting the 24 page SB 608. I don't see much help for me.

My only income is Social Security and I get about \$1,000 each month.

My monthly rent, utilities, food, and medication total \$980.

Some years there is a cost-of-living increase; some years not.

My rent increases each year.

The last few years it's been close to a 10% increase.

Less expensive housing is not locally available.

I have a Section 8 Housing Voucher.

My last couple of increases were above Voucher support so I pay the full increases.

If my annual rent increase this spring is \$90 , then I am out of money.

What am I to do next year?

- SB 608 Effectively enshrines a standard **10%** rent increase each year.
- SB 608 purports and implies to eliminate No Cause Eviction after 1 year.
In fact there is an exception for landlords in all cases.
- Landlords may falsify violations and terminate tenants. Tenants are forced to file suit in court.
This is NOT equal application of law.
Senate Bill 608 seems to ignore those Oregonians below the poverty line.