

February 4, 2019

RE: Support for SB 608

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

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oregon Chapter is proud to support SB 608. NASW is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human wellbeing and to ensure basic human needs are met. Our members provide mental health care to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

NASW Oregon Chapter encourages you to vote YES on SB 608. This bill creates a just-cause eviction standard and reasonable limits on rent increases. These reforms will provide much-needed stability to Oregon renters, thereby minimizing the housing disruptions that have been sending Oregon families into crisis.

Our members work on the front lines of care and see the impacts of housing insecurity every day. No-cause evictions and massive rent increases disrupt people's lives and have a detrimental impact on people's mental health, especially the most vulnerable Oregonians. SB 608 will create meaningful protections for tenants while preserving reasonable flexibility for landlords.

On behalf of our members, I strongly recommend passing this bill to make Oregon safer and more prosperous for all.

Sincerely,

Delmar de la Torre Stone, LMSW
Executive Director, Oregon Chapter