

February 14, 2019

To: Representative Keny-Guyer and Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee
Re: Support for SB 608, Tenant Protections

My name is Lief Bamberg and I'm writing in support of SB 608. I've been living in Oregon for 7 years, and due to cystic fibrosis, I'm on disability.

CF is an unforgiving illness, but I think people would be really shocked if they knew of the non-medical impact it has on my life. Recently, social movements have shown that discrimination is alive and well in America. Unlike a race or a gender, cystic fibrosis is an invisible disease. The most people will see is coughing fits, and then they'll just think I'm contagious.

Outside of the myriad complications that CF brings to my attempt to have a fulfilling and robust social life, having a stable place to live has been a lifelong struggle. Landlords and roommates have discriminated against me for my income source (SSI and SSDI) for its "high maintenance" paperwork requirements. I've also been asked to leave because I'm home too often, or people are put off by my breathing treatments.

My landlord called me a year ago and told me she might kick me out and sell my house. Well, she didn't, and hasn't. I know a lot of landlords are making that empty threat, bullying the most vulnerable in our society to pressure the government work for profitability over livability. Take it from me, we need protecting; no one's home stability should be at the whims of another person. Furthermore, if landlords do start selling, and housing prices drop, rent prices will drop as well.

Please help restore the dignity that people like me deserve; a safe place to live is not much to ask.

Thank you,

Lief Bamberg