



May 6, 2021
Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Housing
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 291: Racial Justice Council's Individualized Assessment Housing

Chair Fahey and members of the Housing Committee:

Portland State University urges your support of the Racial Justice Council's housing bill - SB 291. At PSU, we know all too well the formidable truth of the rising housing crisis and lack of affordable access our students, faculty, and staff face.

All Oregonians deserve a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Asking for individualized assessments means that landlords have to look beyond the criminal history of a potential renter and take a holistic assessment of the circumstances. People deserve opportunities for forgiveness, redemption and second chances. It is well known that criminal history doesn't provide an indication of a good tenant and stable housing reduces recidivism.

We must provide a path to re-entry after incarceration. Access to housing is part of the solution. For Portland State students who start their education utilizing the Second Chance Pell program, it is critical that they are able to have housing opportunities available to them so they can finish their degrees, keep their jobs, maintain their children's education, and reconnect with their families.

Again, Portland State asked that you vote yes on SB 291. Thank you for your time and your commitment to ensuring safety and opportunity of stable housing for all Oregonians. We look forward to working with you as this policy continues to move forward in the process.

Sincerely,

Alyson Kraus
Director of State Government Relations
Portland State University