

My name is Teresa Roark and I live in Springfield, Oregon. Like many in my community I am concerned about the impacts of the 2020 wildfire season, the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the housing crisis and how all of these disasters will impact our community's most vulnerable members. In my work I regularly talk with people, primarily people experiencing homelessness and those scared that they are about to lose their housing, about available resources. The wait lists for Affordable or Subsidized Housing in our community are typically several years long, so most people are looking for the increasingly few naturally occurring affordable rental opportunities. This process can be confusing and incredibly competitive. I recently called a property management company within an hour or two of a one bedroom apartment being listed and they had already received ten applications. I spoke with a woman the other day who's husband recently passed away and she is having to navigate the process of trying to find an apartment having never rented before and with limited English proficiency.

I am in support of HB 2427. I think anything we can do to make the process of finding a stable home easier will benefit Oregonians. Creating a standard application will make the process easier to understand and streamlined. It has the opportunity to increase access for individuals who do not speak English. Right now communities across the state are responding to people displaced by wildfires and COVID-19 has increased housing insecurity for many. It is imperative right now that we do what we can to make it easier for people to find stable housing, and HB 2427 is an important piece of that.