

Hello,

I strongly support HB 2163. There is a high need for rental assistance across the state of Oregon. Ideally the federal government would provide assistance to each disadvantaged renter that qualifies, but they shamefully do not, and so there is an urgency and a moral necessity for our state to act where our federal government has failed.

In Multnomah County, the Section 8 waitlist only opens up every 4-5 years owing to the high amount of applicants. I've worked for the local housing authority for almost 2 years and each week I've received around 1-2 calls, from someone desperately asking if we have any availabilities, I have to tell them that we do not and that we are unsure when the waitlist will open again.

I am deeply saddened when I receive these calls but even more so I am angry that we have allowed for such a housing crisis to exist. I understand that this bill is far from a panacea and any state rental assistance program will likely not cover every Oregonian facing hardship. But even if we are unable to fix this crisis without federal help, we still have an obligation and responsibility to do our best to address it.

Thank you for your time,
Best,
Brandon Narramore