

Submitter: Margaret Bender-Stephanski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967

My name is Margaret and I live in Portland, OR. I'm writing in support of HB 2967. I am a renter and have been negatively impacted by the costs of application fees. I also work in housing as a case manager for homeless veterans. Every year our program spends thousands of dollars that could be spent elsewhere on non refundable application fees. These fees range anywhere from \$40-\$90 each. There is no standardization for these fees and if someone is denied, including an illegal denial, they are not refunded. Sure you can submit a complaint or try and sue a company, but homeless folks or low income housing insecure folks do not have the time or money to do so. Application fees line the pockets of property management companies and outlawing them will allow for much more economic opportunity for the every day Oregonian. As a state we need to move forward and prioritize making housing more accessible for folks and working to end homelessness. Thank you for your time.