

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967

Renters often have to deal with many obstacles to finding an apartment, with landlords requiring first and last month deposits and fees of different kinds. I remember how hard it was sometimes to find a decent apartment when I was a young adult, and yet I never had to pay a fee just to apply! Do we care about young people or others with economic disadvantages trying to find affordable housing in Oregon? Many Oregonians, as well as Oregon lawmakers, have supported better access to housing and deplored the increasing number of homeless people in our parks and in our streets, and the perceived damage they may cause. Besides, this type of fee can easily lead to abuse - what could stop an unscrupulous landlord from keeping apartments empty and charging many applicants these fees? I'm sure there are better ways to address a landlord's need for information about prospective tenants - for instance, why not accept credit checks independently paid for by tenants? Please remember your young and working class constituents who could greatly benefit from you voting yes on HB 2967. Thank You.