

Submitter: Whitney Ford-Terry
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967
Feb 16, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson,

I urge you to pass HB 2967 to prohibit landlords from charging application fees. These fees create a major financial burden for low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing. As a low-income worker in the non-profit sector, I've dedicated my life to serving the public. However, this has often left me in a place of being housing insecure. Many times in the past, I have had to borrow money from friends or loved ones when/if I have had to pay application fees that offer no guarantee that my application will even be considered, even as someone with an excellent credit score and an impeccable renters history. And I'm lucky to have people to support me in these financially precarious times, not everyone does.

Additionally, as affordable housing becomes increasingly scarce, the competition over these rental opportunities also increases, leading to more applicants paying fees for an unlikely outcome. These fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations. Landlords have little incentive to keep these fees low. Existing regulations make it difficult for tenants to enforce their rights.

Eliminating these fees will help reduce barriers to housing and give renters a better chance at stability.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Whitney Ford-Terry
97404