

**Representative Pam Marsh**

Members of House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St NE, S-409  
Salem, OR 97301

**Chair Marsh, members of the committee,**

I am writing in support of HB2967 and urge you to consider the positive impacts that could result from passing this bill. I'm passionate about advocating for equitable policies and am currently interning as a policy associate for the Eugene Tenant Alliance. As a low-income renter in Lane County and recipient of federally subsidized housing assistance, I have also personally faced the financial burden of these fees, which have been a significant barrier to achieving upward socioeconomic mobility.

Application fees, ranging on average from \$20 to \$75, often place an undue burden on low-income individuals and marginalized groups, especially people of color, families with children, and those with criminal histories or prior evictions. In my case, I have spent hundreds of dollars on application fees, with only a small portion of those being refunded. The cumbersome process of requesting those refunds, combined with the pressure of focusing on basic survival, meant that I was unable to recover much of the money I spent. Furthermore, many property management companies required that I pay a separate application fee for each property, even when they were using the same report, effectively increasing the financial burden.

This situation is not unique to me. For families already struggling financially, the cost of applying for rental properties—especially when those applications are ultimately unsuccessful—creates an insurmountable barrier to securing stable housing. These fees prevent families from pursuing better housing opportunities and often push them into substandard conditions, further exacerbating inequality and limiting access to housing in safer or more desirable areas. This limits their ability to move to neighborhoods with better schools, jobs, and health care, hindering their chances for upward mobility.

By eliminating application fees, HB 2967 would help to reduce these barriers, allowing low-income renters to focus on finding suitable, stable housing rather than being stuck in a cycle of financial strain. This bill aligns with Oregon's broader goals of fostering fairer, more inclusive housing policies. States like Vermont and Massachusetts, which have enacted similar measures, have seen improved housing access and reduced discrimination.

I urge you to pass HB 2967 and take meaningful action to help low-income and marginalized renters access better housing opportunities and improve their socioeconomic mobility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Adriana Grant  
Policy Associate  
Eugene Tenant Alliance