

Submitter: Edith Gillis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3521

This last year I have applied at different times for various houses in Portland, and all but once, the landlord or property manager required a nonrefundable fee no matter how many others had applied before me and even though I was told that they had already chosen someone before or even when neighbors said that the place stayed empty for months or years while the landlord kept making money off of application fees without investing in actually making it available to anyone. Some locations require a nonrefundable fee and application, sight-unseen before allowing us to schedule a tour of the place or schedule asking questions about it. All but one of the locations were not safe, healthy, habitable for me and my medical requirements, and never did they return my money. I could quickly see that it would be illegal under Oregon law for them to charge rent and it would be lawful for tenants to refuse rent given how unsafe the housing was/is. I always gave the landlords proof of my excellent credit score and enthusiastically positive references from landlords and others, and yet, none of these landlords or property managers had ever checked with any of my references or the credit reporting bureau and I learned that the police were months behind on records checks and had not received applications. To my understanding all but one of these was a scam or fraud, and if you do not pass this bill into law, it would mean ever more people will become unhoused and unable to pay the taxes you want for your favorite programs and agendas.