



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 17, 2025

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **support of HB 2967, which would prohibit rental application screening fees.**

My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of two locals: SEIU Local 503, representing homecare workers, nonprofit employees, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and public sector employees; and SEIU Local 49, representing janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing employees, and healthcare workers. Together, we represent over 85,000 working people.

HB 2967 simplifies the rental application process by eliminating unnecessary costs for tenants. Rather than requiring every applicant to pay a screening fee—many of which go unreturned due to administrative errors—landlords would cover the cost of screening the first qualified applicant, aligning with standard business practices in nearly every other industry. While landlords have a legitimate right to screen tenants, this cost should be part of their operating expenses rather than an added burden on renters, who often have to apply for multiple units in a tight market. This increasingly common approach in other states helps remove financial barriers to securing housing while ensuring landlords can still thoroughly screen applicants as part of their standard business operations.

These fees disproportionately impact marginalized communities, making it even harder for families to secure stable housing. By eliminating application screening fees, HB 2967 helps ensure that qualified tenants can access and remain housed for longer periods, fostering greater stability. Reducing barriers to housing is essential for the well-being of all workers, and this bill is a critical step toward creating a fairer and more accessible rental market.

SEIU Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 2967.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council