

Submitter: Christian Jahn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2967

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

Dear representative,

I urge you to support HB 2967 to prohibit rental application fees. Fees to apply to rent a unit are used to exploit renters' out of any financial stability we may have. These fees create a major financial burden for all renters, especially low-income renters. They make it harder to secure stable housing.

HB 2967 is directly related to #5 of the Renters' Bill of Rights (issue campaign created by renters for renters) that I support. I am a renter. Renters should be the authority on the costs that affect them, not landlords because of the unavoidable imbalance of power that exists in that relationship.

Rental application fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations because we cannot afford to pay several application fees in order to move when we need to. Not only are fees of this sort a financial burden to renters, when landlords don't know their rights AND responsibilities, but these fees become a justice and education burden put onto renters as well when we have to teach landlords that they owe us the money back if they deny our application.

Fees of this sort exacerbate housing insecurity, limit access to affordable housing and cause renters to have to educate those who already have immense power over their access to a roof over our heads.

Current Oregon law is not helping renters enough.

I urge you to put renter needs above landlord wants.

I urge you to pass HB 2967 and use your power to support the Renters' Bill of Rights.

PDXRenterPower.com

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

Thank you for your time,

Christian K. Jahn, Esq.