



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

February 19, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283 Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2967

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony, on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project, in support of HB 2967, which would prohibit the charging of screening fees for applicants seeking housing.

Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) is a social service agency with over five decades of experience in providing housing stabilization services to low and very low-income older adults, age 55 and over, experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Multnomah County.

Excessive application fees are significant barriers to accessing affordable housing for low-income tenants and individuals experiencing homelessness. Recent data indicates that BIPOC renters are “disproportionately harmed by the cost of application screening fees.”¹ According to the 2022 Zillow Consumer Housing Trends Report, Black and Latinx renters were nearly twice as likely to submit five or more applications.² Additionally, renters of color reported paying a higher median application fee than white renters: The typical white renter reported paying \$35 in application fees on their rental, while the typical Black, Latinx, and Asian renters all reported spending \$50 on application fees.³

Improving the application screening process is a critical step in dismantling the structural inequities at play in Oregon’s rental housing market. We encourage your support of HB 2967. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yoni Kahn
Advocacy Director
Northwest Pilot Project

¹ The Case Against Rental Application Fees (The Georgetown Journal on Poverty and Law, Fall 2022), Eric Dunn, Georgetown University Law Center. <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2023/01/The-Case-Against-Rental-Application-Fees.pdf>

² “Renters: Results from the Zillow Consumer Housing Trends Report 2022,” Zillow. <https://www.zillow.com/research/renters-consumer-housing-trends-report-2022-31265/>

³ Ibid.