

Submitter:

Daeleah Shaeffer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3974

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

Big companies are taking over the housing market in ways that raise serious concerns about fairness and basic human dignity. It's not just the developers buying up apartments and pushing out people who've lived here for years—it's also the companies, being used by private landlords, profiting from tenant screening fees with little regulation or oversight. By allowing these unchecked fees and barriers in the application process, they're turning something as essential as finding a home into a way to make money off people who are already struggling. It feels like they don't care who gets left behind, and I can't help but wonder if the people we've elected to represent us truly care.

I urge you to pass HB 3974, capping application fees at \$20. These fees place a significant burden on low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing, particularly for marginalized communities. As a result, many families remain in unstable living conditions. With this cap, landlords can still check all essential criteria—credit, background, and rental history—without overcharging applicants. Passing this bill would not only reduce barriers to housing but also increase community safety by providing more people access to stable housing.

Thank you.