

Submitter: Jean Sproat

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,

I'm 91 years old, and I've been in survival mode since I was a child—just trying to make it from one day to the next. After my husband passed, I lost our home because I couldn't find rental assistance, and I've been stuck ever since. My food stamps were cut to just \$47 a month when I started receiving Social Security, so every dollar matters more than I can express. I haven't moved in years—not because I don't want to, but because I can't afford to keep trying. I make Christmas socks to sell but they do more to keep my hands busy than make ends meet. Lowering rental application fees could finally give me a chance to find peace and get out of the chaos of apartment living.

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.