

Submitter:

Jay Tomlinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3974

To: House Rules Committee - Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Pham, Representative Davis, Representative Elmer, Representative Kropf, Representative Valderrama.

I am Jay Tomlinson, living in Multnomah County and working in Clackamas County. I urge your support of HB 3974. HB 3974 will cap application fees for screening at \$20. Tenants need this policy because the cost of application fees is adding to the problems in access to housing. When my mother and I moved to Oregon in 2014, we lived in a motel for 6 months. I was 15 years old in a single room while battling stomach illness on top of all the other pains of adolescence with zero privacy. Due to a very messy divorce, my mother's credit was very bad and so finding housing was difficult. We spent several hundred dollars trying and failing to find housing. Then mom took a new, better paying job in another town. We again, lived in a motel for 3 months, spending another couple hundred dollars trying to find housing, including spending one night sleeping in our car in negative 12 degree weather before taking shelter in the airport. Even when we got the money back, that was time we couldn't afford food or gas or other necessities. For people living in poverty, \$50 can mean survival. We were so incredibly fortunate that we could afford the thousands we spent on trying to get into housing. Very few in that situation are that lucky. A cap on rental application is sensible, it protects community members and it incentivizes landlords to accept tenants into the housing. This has been tested and proven in other states like New York and Wisconsin. Championing no rental applications would be even better and truly protect our most vulnerable community members. As it stands, HB 3974 is a sensible compromise and a vital protection our communities deserve.

I urge you to support the \$20 cap on rental application fees by supporting HB 3974.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely, Jay Tomlinson