

Submitter:

Justin Willging

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,

Finding a place to live in this housing crisis is hard enough—but it feels nearly impossible when you're hit with high application fees at every turn. If those fees were capped, it would be so much easier to actually find housing without going broke in the process. It's incredibly frustrating to be exploited by landlord after landlord, with no recourse and no regulation. And let's be honest—most prospective tenants who are already struggling to afford application fees certainly don't have the money to cover court costs for civil litigation if their rights are violated during the housing search process. Capping application fees is a necessary step in this current crisis toward fairness and dignity in the housing process.

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.