

Submitter:

Nicole Jaquez

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,

As a renter in Bend, I've experienced firsthand how expensive and exhausting the housing application process can be. You usually have to apply to several places before getting accepted, and lose hundreds of dollars in the process. What's worse is realizing that some of those fees were for applications that were never even processed because another tenant had already been selected—and then having to navigate the frustrating and often fruitless process of requesting a refund. It's an exploitative practice that seems to persist only in a housing market where monopolistic behavior goes unchecked and unchallenged. Capping application fees would make the process more transparent and manageable for renters like me who are just trying to find a stable place to live.

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.