



February 1, 2019

Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Housing Committee
Salem, OR

RE: Support of SB 608

Dear Chair Fagan:

A majority of the Community Action Partnership (CAPO) Board of Directors voted to support SB 608. The bill provides protection against unjust eviction and displacement for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes.

CAPO's 18 Community Action agencies cover all regions of Oregon, including migrant farmworkers, and serve over 426,000 Oregonians each year.

Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both urban and rural areas, renters face the threat of no-cause eviction and extreme rent increases at any time. Renters forced to leave their homes through no fault of their own often face the very real threat of homelessness. Every day, we see how this crisis impacts our members.

SB 608 has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises on the most vulnerable:

1. It ends the unjust use of no-cause evictions, ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not forced to leave their homes unfairly.
2. It will curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents so that tenants can have some modicum of economic stability.

Oregon's housing crises is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. We must act now to ensure the bright future of our state.

Community Action Partnership of Oregon encourages the committee to pass SB 608 with a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barb Higinbotham", written over a light-colored background.

Barb Higinbotham, Chair
CAPO Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Merrell", written in a cursive style.

Janet Merrell
Executive Director