

To Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee

My name is Holly Balcom. I grew up on the coast, in Florence, went to school in Corvallis, and currently live in NE Portland. I do population health reporting on diabetes for Kaiser Permanente.

My good job allows me to own a home walking distance to work. My property tax increases are predictable thanks to Measures 5&50. Having housing stability allows me to make long term plans for my three children and lasting connections with my neighbors.

I also volunteer with Rahab's Sisters, which serves food to marginalized women. In my years there I have heard so many stories of no-cause evictions or punitive rent increases that forced these women out on the streets, or into bad relationships just to have a roof over their heads.

Everyone should have housing stability and predictability of costs. Of course this alone won't solve the housing crisis, but it's an important part. None of our growth and prosperity is moral if it comes at the expense of our most vulnerable populations.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 608.

Thank you for your time,  
Holly Balcom  
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