



# A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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**To:** Chair Keny-Guyer  
Co-Vice Chair Sanchez  
Co-Vice Chair Noble  
Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee

**From:** Lindsey Franklin, Legislative Staff, Oregon AFL-CIO

**Re:** Oregon AFL-CIO Support for SB 608, Tenant Protections

The Oregon AFL-CIO represent over 300, 000 working people across Oregon and we consider ourselves a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony on SB 608 and efforts to provide stability in housing for all Oregon families.

The Oregon AFL-CIO has been a long-term advocate for issues affecting working people, often issues directly related to the workplace. However, housing is a fundamental principle of survival and stable homes are essential for working families to have an opportunity to succeed.

As others have mentioned, 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 for 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 ripped from 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 crisis is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical.

When a worker's life is disrupted by an event like you've heard about from many tenants today, it is incredibly damaging to their families, to their mental health and damaging to our economy. Oregon working families 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.