

From: [DeJahn Lamar](#)
To: [HHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for SB 608
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Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Noble and Sanchez, Members of the Committee,

My name is De'Jahn Bell and my partner Laura and I lived in Netarts, OR until we were recently forced out of our home. For me, a good home has been priority and problem number one. I have dealt with continuous housing issues which have only gotten worse and harder to navigate as I get older. Home to me is security, reliability, and opportunity. To not have a good home or to have one taken away unexpectedly can be, and is devastating. For Laura and I, our home is a workplace, which makes the situation even more troublesome.

We are self-motivated and self-employed artists, who have moved from one state with severe housing issues to another. We moved because of problems finding affordable and secure housing and because of opportunities offered here with family. We were also being called by Oregon's appreciation of art and small business and its respect and support of such. In Oregon, while looking constantly in all directions, we realized there was a serious housing issue here as well. There were little to no options with affordability and price inflation, and with availability in general. We moved to Netarts because of all that has been mentioned, we fell in love with the area, community, it's sunsets, and beautiful bay.

Lack of repairs and housing options is a common problem in many communities. Like us, our neighbors wanted to stay, but with all of us dealing with the same housing issues, the community was being diminished and slowly turning into vacation and seasonal homes for the wealthy. By educating ourselves with Oregon law, we found that our home was not fulfilling its duties and obligations. We reported leaks, pests, and structural issues repeatedly to our property managers and the property owner refused to fix or invest in any of the property. While out of town visiting family for Christmas and going to two funerals, a no cause termination notice was posted on our door. It stated that we had what was now less than 30 days to evacuate. This by itself is a horrible thing to find, let alone with a lack of a full 30 days to utilize because of being out of town when posted and with it being in retaliation to our demands of a safe and secure home that was up to code. At this point we had to get legal advice, which only added to the stress.

Trying to protect yourself, your loved ones, your assets, your life, and it's future is most people's priority. We as a nation, I feel, are dealing with a state of emergency in most of the country. With lack of affordable housing and living wages, the obvious housing market crisis and all its issues, and our constant growth of population, the situation has only been exasperated and will continue to be unless we take action. This no cause termination is troublesome and disastrous to people's lives and their future opportunities. Relocation and moving is costly, and not always an option, in our situation, where there are waiting lists on apartments, no storage units available, and an extremely bad time of year to be moving with the wet and cold. Homelessness is a real possibility and these situations only help perpetuate the cycles of such happening. This creates a destructive atmosphere for almost any individual, which can cause or intensify sickness, mental illness, and problems with wealth and stability. I believe Oregon can and should lead as an example on this issue.

I request to the committee to please support SB 608 to provide fairness and stability for the

millions of Oregonians who are renters.

Thank you,
De'Jahn Bell
Elmira, OR