



February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Sanchez and Olson, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

**The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) respectfully submits comment in support of SB 608.**

No-cause evictions, excessive rent increases, and the overall lack of available housing stock have become a statewide crisis. Housing instability often has particularly disastrous effects on vulnerable communities, including seniors, children, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, communities of color, and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

According to a landmark national study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 1 in 3 Oregonians will experience some form of sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. Fleeing an abusive partner is already incredibly difficult and dangerous; the worsening housing crisis in our state compounds this situation.

According to our Coalition members, who witness the struggles of survivors every day in communities throughout Oregon, ***affordable and permanent housing remains the #1 unmet need for survivors of violence.***

If enacted into law, SB 608 would enhance tenant protections and promote housing stability, benefiting communities throughout the state with minimal cost to property owners. In particular, survivors of violence and their children will benefit greatly from these measures, as housing stability is a critical component to sustaining safety and healing after experiencing trauma.

For these reasons and more OCADSV supports SB 608. Please join us in supporting safety and stability for renters throughout Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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*Founded in 1978, The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) is a statewide nonprofit organization that is comprised of 50 member programs, both community-based and tribal nations, that provide advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the state.*