



To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director
Subject: The Housing Crisis is Driving up Hunger in Oregon - Support SB 608
Date: February 18, 2019

**Renters in Oregon are now *eleven times*
more likely to experience hunger than homeowners.
SB 608 moves us in the right direction.**

We envision an Oregon that is hunger-free, healthy and thriving.

Yet one in four renters in Oregon now experiences food insecurity, meaning that families don't always know where their next meal will come from.

A major reason for this is because the cost of housing is increasingly unaffordable. Too many Oregonians face impossible choices between paying for food and rent.

Nationwide, renters are three times more likely to experience hunger than homeowners. In Oregon, it's even worse. **Renters in Oregon are eleven times more likely to experience hunger than those who own a home¹**. This disproportionately impacts people of color who – for generations in Oregon – were systematically denied the right to home ownership because of discriminatory housing policies.

We recognize that there is no silver bullet when it comes to solving Oregon's housing crisis. **Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon urges passage of SB 608**. It ends the unjust use of no-cause evictions - ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not ripped from the homes unfairly – and it will also curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents so that tenants can have some modicum of economic stability.

This impacts everyone: our children, workers, and communities. Together, we can build an Oregon where everyone has a safe, affordable, and stable place to call home.

¹ Edwards, Mark; Widespread Declines, Yet Persistent Inequalities: Food Insecurity in Oregon and the U.S. (2015-2017); Dec. 2018.
<https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/sociology/oregonhungerreportdec2018.pdf>