



Testimony in Support of SB 608
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NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon Foundation

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

As advocates for reproductive justice, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon understands the importance of ensuring that renters have protections from no-cause evictions and extreme rent increases, and we urge you to support Senate Bill 608.

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon is dedicated to developing and sustaining a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion. Economic justice and reproductive justice are intimately connected. Without economic security, women's access to healthcare is vulnerable and their ability to take care of themselves and their families is threatened. Housing stability is central to a women's economic security.

We know that stable housing is a social determinant of health. When a family loses their home, they have a small window of time to find somewhere new to live. Finding an affordable, vacant home on short notice often means moving away from their current school, daycare, support network, and place of employment. Even if a family does not lose their home, large rent increases mean families spend more of their income on housing, and less on other basic necessities like healthcare.

Four in ten Oregonians rent their home; this translates to roughly 1.5 million people in our state being potentially vulnerable to unpredictable housing changes. Our communities of color are at most risk -- they are disproportionately impacted by the current housing crisis- often spending more than 30% or even 50% of their income on housing. The current housing crisis is only worsening inequities and pulling communities apart.

We support this bill because stable, safe, and adequate housing is central to the ability of women and their families to choose when and if to become a parent, have an abortion, or choose adoption. This legislation will help address inequities in Oregon housing and our economy, provide a statewide solution to a statewide problem, and promotes economic opportunity for all. We hope that you will join NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon in supporting SB 608.