

Submitter: Eva Kronen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

My name is Eva Kronen. I live in Lane County. I am a homeowner and former landlord. As a Housing Specialist with Head Start of Lane County, each day I am faced with another family of small children at risk of losing their housing or who have become homeless due to rent hikes or no cause evictions.

My job is to connect them with resources which all too often are underfunded and under staffed. Parents, who are often working two jobs to barely scratch by, are left without a safety net when their already rent burdened housing gets increased. Or they are given a no cause eviction and due to no fault of their own now have to fend for themselves for other housing that is almost non-existent and costs too much for low income wage earners.

Relocation assistance can help: with motel bills, while a family finds a new place, storage units, so they don't lose their belongings. With move in costs like deposits and first and last month. This funding can help people get into housing and avoid homelessness as a result of an eviction.

We have to do everything we can to prevent increased homelessness—even eating gets more expensive when you don't have a kitchen. Indeed, even with McKinney Vento laws, schools cannot serve children well if they are moving around with their families from couch to campground to shelters.

These protections are essential to providing low income families some stability so their children can maintain their education.

I speak for the hundreds of voices that you are not hearing from. When your life is upended and you are living in poverty, it is nearly impossible to make it to meetings or write letters to law makers.

As I listened to the testimonies today, it was very interesting how investors in real estate are asking for state rental assistance. Usually, business leaders tend to want less government. But here, when they are in the position to make money, they want government involvement. Very interesting.

I support SB611. It will help families stay housed immediately.

Please support these protections. Thank you very much.