

Submitter: Benjamin Schulman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

My name is Benjamin Schulman and I live in Portland. I write to you in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

I am proud to be a member of Portland Tenants United, which is among the many organizations in support of this bill. This proposal will provide much-needed relief to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising rents and limited resources. It will limit annual rent increases to 3% plus CPI or 8% whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

This proposal is still not enough to stabilize rents. With an 8% annual rent increase, rent still doubles in 9 years. I don't know anyone that can afford that. But SB 611 will still be markedly better than the current law which allowed for an unacceptable 14.6% rent increase this year. The burden of housing insecurity caused by skyrocketing rents is not limited to just me, it affects families, seniors, and low-income renters throughout our state. We must act now to ensure that our communities have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

In conclusion, I urge our legislators to support SB 611, which will provide much-needed relief to renters across our state. Housing is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Thank you.

Sincerely,