

Phyllis Shafer

Sincerely,

public service.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 611 as quickly as possible. Thank you for your consideration and your

many lives.

There is no denying that the lack of affordable and available housing and the abrupt and  
disproportionally high financial burden placed on the low or fixed income, young adult and seniors,  
minorties and other at-needed populations constitute an unfair price for unjust laws that destabilize too

Since November, several senior residents have moved out. Within the past week, four more seniors  
announced their departure by the end of the month. The prospect of an unstable future is increasingly  
becoming the "new norm" for retirees residing at the Eugene Hotel. Is that the "Oregon Way" to treat  
your senior citizens?

The reality of the affordable housing emergency grabbed my attention when the new out-of-state  
owners of my retirement community, the Eugene Hotel Retirement Center, notified its senior residents  
that our rent had been increased to 14% in 2023. Historically, the former owners (local citizens of the  
Eugene community) had increased the rent an average of 3% per year. That means that retired  
residents, many of whom are on limited or fixed incomes, face an increase in rent from \$220 to \$330  
per month, depending on the size of their apartment. The sudden and sheer increase in rent is  
generally viewed by our residents as excessive and personally unsustainable in the future. If I face rent  
increases like this one this year in future years, I will have to look at alternative housing options in the  
future.

My name is Phyllis Shafer and I am a 77-year-old senior retiree residing in Eugene. I strongly urge  
passage of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability including limiting the amount of  
rent increase to 3% plus CPI or 8 percent whichever is less per year in Oregon.

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee:

February 26, 2023