

Submitter: Kendra Middleton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB611

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kendra Middleton and I am a tenant living in Lake Oswego. I did everything right on paper. I went to college, got a degree, and made it on my own until I couldn't. If you talk to those experiencing houselessness, many are like me; they did everything they were supposed to until they couldn't afford to anymore. In the last ten years, my rent has more than doubled. I don't think my landlord's mortgage or business loan has doubled, but my rent has simply because it could. In 2016, before Oregon's rent cap law, my rent increased by over 40%. The rent cap law was necessary, but it wasn't perfect. We still have work to do.

I qualified for Oregon Emergency Rent Assistance during the pandemic, but the funds ran out before I could receive what I had been promised. I have spent almost my entire life savings, my retirement, paying rent. There are some counties with resources, but Clackamas County was not one of them.

I can't afford a 14.6% increase, but my property manager was very forward about telling us that the owners of the building plan to raise the rent as high as legally allowed. My complex didn't get more amenities, it didn't suddenly become 14.6% bigger or 14.6% better. My landlords aren't 14.6% more responsive when there is an issue. This rent increase is too high and will price tenants like me out of our homes.

Oregon's houseless population is already overwhelming. We can help keep people housed with this common sense bill. Please support Senate Bill 611.