

Submitter: Karen Caudillo Roman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB611

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

My name is Karen Caudillo Roman and I live in Portland. I am testifying in strong support of SB 611.

I am a first generation college graduate and a nonprofit employee. Inflation has been really intense for me, and for many colleagues I see both in nonprofits and other sectors, since our raises can't keep up. We're already on a budget. I manage my own budget really well but I'm no longer able to save anything. If my rent increased 14.6%, that would be over \$100 a month, and it would be really difficult to me to handle. Where else would I make cuts? That prospect is really frightening. And then, what if something else happens—my car tire pops, I have an unexpected medical bill—I wouldn't have anything to fall back on. In my last building, someone was forced to move into their car. I was out of town and didn't hear what ended up happening to them. I hope they are doing well and staying warm this winter.

My situation isn't even the worst. I don't have kids but I can't imagine how it would be feasible for families with children. Personally, I'm one of the only women in my family who has achieved this level of independence and it's really important to me to maintain. I have friends who haven't been able to move out of their family home, or are moving back in, because they're so afraid they won't be able to afford rent.

I work with Latina women, and I'm particularly concerned about impacts of rent increases on people navigating domestic violence. Housing instability and homelessness increases the risk of experiencing violence and abuse and housed survivors are still experiencing the burdens from high rent. Rent increases like this would push them over the edge. Protections like SB 611 are essential to prevent more of our community members from becoming homeless. The security of having a limit of how much our rent could go up would give us more opportunity to plan, to save, and to do our best to manage.

Signed,
Karen Caudillo Roman