



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: June 21, 2023
RE: In Support of SB 611B

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support families and help them succeed, both in the workplace and at home. We work to ensure that Oregon is a place where all families can be economically secure and have the time they need to take care of each other. We believe having a safe and stable home is a critical component to every family's success – it impacts a family's safety and security, their childrens' educational outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for the entire family. That is why we strongly support SB 611B which will prevent high-rent home loss and prevent our state's homeless crisis from getting worse.

When people have to vacate due to no fault of their own, Oregon's tight and expensive rental market makes it hard to quickly find a new home. The rent increase reports from across Oregon show the great need for SB 611B. Studies show that just a \$100 increase in median rents in a community is tied to a 9% increase in homelessness in that community.

Multiple studies show that the housing crisis affects Black, Indigenous, and other people of color significantly—especially those who identify as women. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual report from 2022 found that the gap between wages and housing costs continues to be the largest for people of color, and particularly women of color¹. Among renters, 55% of Black households are cost-burdened and 53% of Latino households are cost-burdened, compared to 43% of white households. The disparities grow even starker for women of color: more than 70% of Black and Latina women earn an hourly wage that falls short of the one-bedroom Housing Wage.

SB 611B is an action that the legislature can take now to have an immediate impact on our state's housing crisis as we also work on the longer term solutions of increasing supply and providing support to rehouse our currently homeless neighbors. It will also allow landlords to take inflation into account and preserve the ability to reset rents to market rates in between tenancies.

¹ <https://nlihc.org/news/nlihc-releases-out-reach-2022-high-cost-housing-0>

Without your support of SB 611B, Oregon's success in addressing the housing crisis is at grave risk. We strongly urge the passage of SB 611B as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kwon
Policy Manager
Family Forward Oregon



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