

Submitter: Montana Hauser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 611. My name is Montana Hauser and I'm a renter in Southern Oregon.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 611 as a critical homelessness prevention strategy, to protect individuals and communities across the state from extreme rent increases and displacement.

I've been renting for the last 10 years, and while my rent continues to increase, my wages never meet those same jumps. I've changed jobs and been promoted, only to fall into the same conundrum when rent goes up each year. I don't live in excess. I don't spend on crazy things. I support my family and want them to live a safe and happy life, but we're fighting to keep our housing that allows that. My family cannot afford rents to jump as high as they are, and I believe many Oregonians are in the same boat. By passing SB 611 you'll be supporting the people you were sworn in to support.

SB 611 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.

Oregon's housing emergency goes beyond lack of supply and the number of people living without homes or shelter. We have a rental emergency as well, with tenants living just one rent increase notice away from displacement and possible homelessness. Without SB 611 to stop runaway and extreme rent increases, we will continue to see people displaced onto the streets more quickly than we can rehouse people. Without passage of SB 611, Oregon's success in addressing the housing crisis is at grave risk.

Please pass SB611 as soon as possible. Thank you.

In desperation,
Montana