

Submitter: Diana Richardson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I'm writing to ask that you prioritize the swift passage of Senate Bill 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

Keeping rent reasonable impacts me personally. I have many friends and acquaintances who rent but who live with fear they will have to soon leave Portland because of this Dickensian system.

Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes, contributing directly and indirectly to domestic violence, homelessness and even crime. I have to say, "Wake up!"

While the Oregon housing market provides skyrocketing property wealth for landlords, renters have nothing to fall back on when their monthly costs rise beyond their paychecks.

Outrageous increases(anything above 4 percent>equals a kick in the butt on the way out the door.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable(no more than 4 percent,) annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. Between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market, but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities.

Sincerely,

Diana Richardson