

Submitter: Elijah Ocean
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB611

Elijah Ocean, Corvallis
Testimony to House Rules Committee in favor of SB611B

I grew up in a very rural small town in Southern Oregon. I'm now 23 and living in Corvallis. A few months ago I received a 14.6% and had to leave my home.

I've watched the cost of housing skyrocket in the last 3 years. I've been lucky to be able to renew my 1 year lease term for the last few years but this year, on top of my 14.6% rent increase, my landlord decided not to renew my lease. The rent increase plus the precarity of being able to be served a no fault eviction notice at any moment was too much for me.

I'm now splitting rent with a roommate because rent eating up 50% of my income wasn't tenable. Even sharing the costs, if we were to receive a 14.6% increase at our new place, it wouldn't be affordable anymore. I've been trying to build up an emergency fund, but in this day and age, it's been impossible to save. It's been the same for all my peers. I have friends from all walks of life but the thing we all have in common is that we're struggling to stay housed.

Everyone in my peer group is struggling. While most of us have given up on the dream of buying a house, we still yearn for housing security. If rents keep going up and wages don't, none of us will be able to live here anymore. If I'm priced out of the Corvallis area, I'll probably have to leave Oregon. Passing SB 611B is one incremental step towards stabilizing Oregon's rental market.

Thank you.