

February 8, 2023

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leah Jo Figueroa Carline, and I am a primary care provider in Eugene, OR. I am writing to you today in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

As a primary care healthcare provider working with underserved patients in Lane County, I see first-hand the impact of our current housing market on renters. Many of my patients are living paycheck to paycheck, and are facing imminent eviction with the high rent increases.

As a healthcare provider, I am joining with colleagues, and many organizations in support of SB 611. This proposal will provide much-needed relief to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising rents and limited resources. It will limit annual rent increase to 3% plus CPI or 8%, whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

As a healthcare provider I watch the impact of housing instability on my patient's health every day. I don't feel that I am able to provide our community members, and my patients with the kind of healthcare that would help them thrive unless they have less stress around being able to afford rent, and more housing stability. If we want to keep emergency room, crisis, outreach and service costs down--and if we want to be a welcoming and intact community for all who live here--we absolutely must address the housing crisis, and SB 611 is one step in that direction.

We must act now to ensure that our communities have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. I am urging our legislators to support SB 611, which will provide much-needed relief to renters across our state. Housing is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,
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