

Submitter: Connie McQuowen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama and members of the Committee,

My name is Connie McQuowen. My partner Leland and I have lived in this apartment for 5 years and every year our rent has increased by \$50.00, which has usually been something we can work to accommodate. Two years ago Leland was injured at work and subsequently lost his job. We have both faced considerable health issues and have struggled to collect any kind of social security or disability. We were able to receive rent assistance, and that is how we stayed housed.

This year, with the increased allowable rent raise, we received a 15% rent increase, bringing our rent from \$1,300 to \$1,498. Our landlord offered us a cheaper unit, which would put us and our 16-year-old son all in a one-bedroom apartment. We've been told either accept the rent increase or move. The managers are clearly trying to get us out of the space, as we have learned through talking to our neighbors that they have not received a similar rent increase despite being in the same unit size we are. Managers are picking and choosing whose rent increases, which really shows that this is not about keeping the landlord financially secure, or they would have raised the rent on all the units. This is about profit.

We are on a fixed income with significant medical challenges and no help. There are no programs that can help us until we receive an eviction notice. We can only get help with rent when it is too late. Unless we do something to cap the rent, we will see a significant increase in homelessness very soon.

Please pass Senate Bill 611 to keep Oregonians housed.

Thank you for your time
Connie McQuowen