Submitter: Lucy Briseno

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

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

My name is Lucy Briseno and I live in Independence. I'm a renter and a single mother of four kids. I've experienced being evicted due to being short on rent. I have a realistic fear of the possibility of facing eviction once again. The massive rent increases, like those allowable now, will lead to more families being evicted and put in the same position my family was. I'm testifying in support of lifesaving bills like SB 611.

I received a 15% rent increase, equaling $210 each month. I have a salaried job and get paid twice a month. With this rent increase, I'll have to save one entire paycheck plus another $200 just to cover rent. We're making cuts wherever we can, including gas and groceries. I won't be throwing a birthday party for my 2-year old this year. I know they're only 2, but no parent should have to trade their toddler's birthday party for rent. We're all impacted by this. My 17-year old daughter is getting a job to help out. I want to raise a responsible young woman, but I hate that I'm putting adult responsibilities on her shoulders, but it's make or break for us. We need bills like SB 611 to ensure more reasonable rent increases and allow families like me to stay in our homes without sacrificing even our most basic needs.

With these rent increases, every time you turn around someone else is experiencing eviction. We need to stop this crisis. I now have a job at Arches to help other people experiencing homelessness and my situation wasn't even the worst. I was lucky—I had a car, I spoke fluent English, and I knew how to advocate for myself. What about everyone else?

I want to stay mindful of the needs of landlords, homeowners, and us renters. SB 611 is one step towards a more fair rental process, and one that would make all the difference in the world for people in my shoes.

Sincerely,
Lucy Briseno
Independence, Oregon