

Submitter: Brooke Hill

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 urge swift passage of SB 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

As a renter, I have experienced firsthand how rent increase can make or break a stable housing situation. Homelessness in Oregon has only gone up since the pandemic, and increasing rent will only make the problem worse. It is unfair for renters to be at the mercy of their landlords—this is where the law has to step in and do the right thing. Preventing more homelessness is now in the hands of Oregon legislators with this bill. We hope you will continue to support Oregonians through your policy and creating a more equitable future for all Oregon renters.

Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes. 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.

Very few people can afford a 14.6% housing cost increase. Getting an increase that high may as well be an eviction notice for Oregon renters.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And 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,  
Brooke Hill