

Submitter: Sharon Small

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'm writing to ask that you prioritize the swift passage of Senate Bill 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

Keeping rent reasonable impacts me and my daughter personally.

My daughter cannot afford an increase in her rent even as she works full time. She is currently sharing a one bedroom house with a friend to make ends meet. Her rent, and it is a hovel of a house, is nearly 70% of what she earns a month.

My neighbor, Janet, is 84 years old. Her husband just died and she is looking for a new place to live because she cannot afford the increase on lot rent in the retirement village we live in. This is an over 55 trailer/modular situation. It is already as cheap as one can get and I cannot tell you how many elders are barely making just the lot rent alone, not to mention their utilities etc.

I will be retiring soon and dread the thought that I will not be able to stay in my home (yes, a double wide, but it is mine).

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,
Sharon Small