



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

My name is Kendy Schwing. I'm an organizer in training with Oregon AFSCME and a current student attending the University of Oregon in Eugene. I am writing to you today in support of SB 611 as a crucial step toward addressing the housing crisis in our state.

As a student in Eugene, there are already few options for affordable housing for students who support themselves. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation. If the rental costs keep increasing, it will take a toll on students like me, who must work to get through school.

SB 611 impacts students in Eugene. It impacts Seniors and individuals with disabilities who cannot return to work. It impacts at-home childcare providers, who lose both their home and place of work in the event of an eviction. It impacts Oregonians who fear rent increases as high as 14.6% as the housing market continues to skyrocket and force people out of their homes.

SB 611 is a reasonable and common-sense start in the fight against housing insecurity. Limiting rent increases to 3%+ inflation with a maximum increase of 8% each calendar year makes rent increases predictable for tenants. It will keep landlords accountable for three months of relocation assistance when tenants are displaced due to landlord cause.

SB611 does not fix every inequity in the Oregon housing market, but it will help prevent individuals from vulnerable populations from falling into homelessness.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities.

Sincerely,

Kendy Schwing