



Submitter: Ramon A. Hernandez

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB 611

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

I want to thank you for all you do in communities across Oregon helping children, adults, and families with their housing needs. As the Community Engagement Officer at (MWVCAA) Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, we are committed to serving urban and rural communities by advocating for initiatives and services which aim to implement equitable housing options for the Marion and Polk County population. I write to you today in support of SB 611 which will create effective policy for tenant-landowner affairs, taking into consideration the ongoing housing crisis affecting Oregonians state-wide.

I hope that the committee will join me and many others in affirming that access to fair housing policy for individuals and their loved ones should be an essential right for all Oregonians. SB 611 will seek to limit annual rent increases and also increase the amount that a landowner owes a tenant in cases of wrongful termination of tenancy. By capping annual rent increases, we can help ensure that rents remain affordable for tenants and provide greater stability for families who are struggling to make ends meet for years to come. Providing this protection for renters during these trying times will ensure that the livelihoods of countless families in the state are recognized and protected.

At our agency we support implementing proper rental policy for our underserved and underprivileged community. In 2023 Oregonians are facing up to a 14.6% increase in rent, we must recognize that examples such as these furthers accessibility of housing and is displacing individuals and families all across the state of Oregon. I hope that the committee will take a stand for those living paycheck to paycheck trying to get by and working to provide a safe haven for their family. To support this bill will mean to take action and prevent displacement for many individuals in our state.

Thank you for the time and consideration.

Ramon A. Hernandez
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency