



Date: March 27, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Oregon NOW

Re: Support for SB 611

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 611. **Oregon National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW)** strongly urges you to pass SB 611 as a critical homelessness prevention strategy, to protect seniors, families, individuals and communities across the state from extreme rent increases and displacement. SB 611 is part of the Homelessness Prevention Package. It sets reasonable, predictable rent increases for tenants.

Oregon NOW's priority issues include:

- Economic justice: 2023 rent increases for properties 15 or more years old can be as high as 14.6%. That is too high for anyone to afford, outpacing wages and Social Security.
- Racial justice: On average, landlords filed evictions against Black women renters at double the rate of or higher than their white renters in Oregon, according to the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and Data Analytics team.
- Ending domestic violence against women: Housing instability and homelessness increases the risk of experiencing violence and abuse. 83% of domestic violence survivors entering shelters identified "finding housing I can afford" as a need.

Please pass SB 611 as soon as possible. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kim Critelli
President, Oregon NOW
Legislative Co-Chair, Oregon NOW

Nancy Cook
Legislative Co-Chair, Oregon NOW