

Submitter: Lindsey Konopka

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3503

My name is Lindsey Konopka and I was disabled with Multiple Sclerosis at the age of 29. I am writing today in support of HB 3503.

One of the main reasons that I moved to Portland 8 years ago was to receive better healthcare, and now living near that healthcare is becoming more and more expensive. I am on a fixed income because of this disability and my rent and utilities are nearly 80% of my income. If it increases any further there is no way I would be able to afford to live in Portland and have access to all of the doctors I see on a regular basis. Having a disability is not only a massive burden on the person who is disabled, but it then also becomes a burden on their loved ones. I'm lucky that my partner helps me to pick up the slack, but not everyone is so lucky. We already pay \$2,300 a month in rent and if the cost of living continues to skyrocket, I will be on the street. It's already unfair that I do not get a normal chance at life, but now I'm not even allowed housing because I can no longer afford it.

When rent increases by nearly 15%, it causes strife across our communities. Our wages and income do not increase as well.

Oregonians like me are being priced out of housing at a time when even finding a place to live is overwhelmingly difficult. Each time we would apply for a location, there would be 10 other people racing to finish the application first so they would be in the front of the line. And most places would see on the application that I was disabled and let me know that my income was not high enough - even though it was more than high enough combined with my partners.

There is a difference between a reasonable rent increase and predatory increases. These high increases are predatory and it's becoming more and more common in this city to have a landlord that does not care about the people they rent to. Most of us don't have the fight in us to ask for what we need - a safe place to live.

Please pass HB 3503 so our communities can work to solve the housing issues we face.