

Submitter: Kathryn Chambers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3503

Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathryn Chambers and I am a renter living in Salem testifying in support of HB 3503. I have lived in my small community in South Salem for 13 years. I am a 67-year-old retiree on a fixed income. I worked for 27 years for a large company, I volunteer for the Humane Society, and I'm active in the South Salem Neighborhood Association. And sometime in the next year, you may see me on your drive into Salem standing on the street corner or living in a tent because I am not joking when I say people like me are going to be the new face of homelessness in Oregon.

I wake up every day and go to sleep worrying about keeping a roof over my head. I live with the constant stress of knowing that if my landlord raises my rent by the allowable 14.6%, I will be priced out of my home.

This isn't something I could have planned for or avoided. This is not about my individual circumstance; I am simply an example of what is about to happen across the state. This is a critical issue and it needs an immediate solution from you, who we put our trust in every time we vote.

We must allow our local communities to take steps to address homelessness as necessary.

Please support House Bill 3503. Thank you.