

Testimony to the State Legislature about rental increases

It is shocking that landlords of buildings less than 15 years old can legally raise the rent by ANY AMOUNT. I know what it feels like to be threatened with a huge rent increase. The owners of the building I live in, which is 25 years old or more (doesn't fall into the loophole about less than 15 years) raised my rent so high I could not pay it. I get Section 8, and it raised my payment way over my ability to pay. I appealed to the Housing Authority of Portland, known as Home Forward, and they upheld the rent increase. I contact Senator Merkley's office, and he arranged for an high-up person at HUD/Housing and Urban Development to speak in my behalf. As the result, Home Forward and the landlord were shown to be completely wrong in my case, and my rent stayed the same as it has been for several years.

I completely support SB 722. I also think that ALL rent increases should not be more than the RATE OF INFLATION. I know that for most buldings 10% per year is legal. That is too much.