

Submitter: Sidney Poole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3054

Hello,

My name is Sidney Poole. I live in the Northwest area of Portland and I am writing this testimony today in support of HB3054.

I support this bill, because I have seen first hand how rent increases directly affects me, my friends, and the people I know or don't know in my community.

Living arrangements along with socioeconomic conditions have changed significantly since the disproportionate rise of rent across the nation for the past ten years. Right now I currently live with my ex-partner as they wait to be accepted for disability. During this period we have had numerous financial scares and strokes of bad luck. I have had to deal with sexual harassment from my previous job, a toxic work environment followed by an unjust layoff and disingenuous statement from that previous employer even though they instructed and told me to file for unemployment, while I was simultaneously rejected from unemployment.

That only happened in the last year, and there were significantly more issues that happened along the way like our car breaking down, which got towed soon after.

During these incidents, we would have completely had our lives destroyed. If it were not for the two factors in our life. The emergency support of our families and the rent that was fairly low for us compared to the rest of the other people we knew in our lives.

When I walk around in my neighborhood I am familiar with the unhoused neighbors who live in our area. However I have also witnessed newer younger faces, newer clothes, and carrying rolling suitcases, or maybe not yet unhoused but asking for money as a last resort to either pay for food or to pay for a portion of their rent.

The people in my life who are still housed, or the people who I have come across in my own gig job, say that they have three jobs, with zero life balance just to stay afloat.

I know these are all anecdotal but per my experiences and observations, no matter what side of the spectrum any of us fall on, no matter what support we get or don't get, no matter how much we aggressively pull ourselves up by our bootstraps; we are all floundering, barely hanging on and most times clinging together to stay sane, to

survive.

The fact that rent increases are even allowed at this point are beyond my comprehension.

So yes, I support HB3054.

I do hope your council along with this city will support this bill and hopefully this brings radical change to the rest of the state of Oregon.