

Submitter: Tiffany Graven
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB611

I am writing to provide my full support for SB611, as an Oregonian I have personally been affected by the increases of rent prices over the years, so much that my family became homeless back in October. As a recent small business owner, a single mother, I use my lived experience in domestic violence and homelessness to support others in removing barriers to housing. I believe that enacting strong tenant protections is not only essential for the well-being of individuals and families, but also for the stability and inclusivity of our communities.

Oregon currently finds itself in a state of emergency due to the alarming rise in homelessness. The connection between unaffordable rent increases, evictions, and homelessness is undeniable and traumatic to say the least. It is imperative that we take proactive measures to prevent further displacement and provide stability to those vulnerable to the threat of losing their homes.

SB611, with its provisions to cap annual rent increases statewide and require larger payouts to renters evicted without cause, is a step in the right direction. Here are the key reasons why this legislation deserves your support:

Housing Stability: Stable housing is the foundation upon which individuals and families build their lives. By capping annual rent increases, SB611 ensures that tenants can better plan their finances, avoid sudden burdensome hikes, and maintain their housing stability. This stability is critical to their overall well-being and their ability to contribute positively to our communities.

Prevention of Displacement: Unchecked rent increases disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, exacerbating the homelessness crisis. SB611 provides a safeguard against arbitrary evictions by requiring landlords to provide larger payouts to tenants evicted without cause. This measure acts as a deterrent to prevent unjust and unwarranted displacements, preserving the dignity and security of tenants.

Addressing the Homelessness Emergency: The state of emergency on homelessness calls for immediate action. SB611 directly contributes to tackling this crisis by offering protections that keep individuals and families in their homes. By reducing the risk of homelessness, we alleviate the strain on emergency shelters, social services, and public resources, while fostering a more compassionate and equitable society.

Balancing Landlord-Tenant Relationships: SB611 recognizes the importance of maintaining a balance between the rights of landlords and the well-being of tenants. It encourages fair and respectful interactions, fostering healthier landlord-tenant relationships, and creating a rental market that is both stable and fair for all parties involved.

Economic Benefits: Affordable and stable housing has positive economic impacts. By implementing rent control measures and tenant protections, SB611 contributes to local economies. Tenants will have more disposable income to spend on local businesses and services, stimulating economic growth and creating a virtuous cycle that benefits the entire community.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and pass SB611, recognizing its significance in protecting tenants from unaffordable rent increases, preventing unnecessary displacement, and addressing the state's homelessness emergency. By enacting this legislation, we demonstrate our commitment to compassion, justice, and the fundamental right to housing for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the positive impact SB611 can have on the lives of tenants and the overall well-being of our state. Not supporting this bill would be an act of negligence on Oregon's behalf because it affects thousands of tenants. By failing to support the bill, the state would be neglecting its responsibility to protect the rights and well-being of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Graven
Tjgraven7773@gmail.com