

Submitter: Joan Petit

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2889

Chair Dexter and Committee Members, While I consider myself fortunate that my adult child (age 20) is willing to hang out with me still and live in my house, I can't pretend that my company is the only reason he is still here. So many of the decisions he and his peers have made have as the foundation the extraordinary cost of housing in Portland. My other son, age 18, will graduate high school this summer, ready to pursue an apprenticeship as an electrician, a potentially well-paying career. And yet he knows he'll need to live with his father or me even as he starts his adult life. How are our state's children supposed to transition into adulthood when they can't afford to live here? And how am I supposed to continue to prepare for retirement in another few decades when my working adult children still need to rely on me for housing? I am fortunate to be in a position where I can support them, but this is coming at a cost to all of us, for them at the cost of independence, and for me, it's the cost of continuing to maintain a large home when I'd prefer to look at downsizing and let a younger, growing family move into our house in our lovely, walkable neighborhood. It's well past time for Oregon to confront, aggressively, the housing challenges that have developed over decades. HB 2889 and the new amendments are one part of making that happen.