

Submitter: David Cusick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Cusick and I am urging you to support of Senate Bill 611. I am incredibly fortunate. When I was laid off due to COVID cuts, I had savings I could use to pay my rent. Not everyone does. When I was told that my rent would increase as high as possible and was therefore priced out of my housing last year, I had family willing to take my wife and me in. Not everyone has that. I was lucky, but I still experienced housing instability and those who aren't fortunate would have just become houseless.

I moved here to be close to my sister and my nephews. I wasn't expecting to see higher prices here than in some of the places I've lived in California. My story isn't uncommon, but it is important. I love living in Oregon, and I love being close to my family, But within a year of moving here, I was priced out of my housing by rent increases.

The rent cap needs to be reformed if we are going to expect families to thrive here, or even survive. I was lucky, that's all it was. I am lucky not to be homeless right now. My story is no different than so many in shelters except I happen to have family that happened to have room.

Thank you for your consideration and for the time to speak today