

Submitter: Jenilee Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

I am a single mother, struggling to survive month to month. I'm lucky enough to have a landlady who charges a reasonable amount for rent however, my son and I are at her mercy. My landlady also happens to be a realtor. She could decide at any moment to sell the duplex we live in. If and when she does, my son and I will be homeless.

Even though I work a full time job in the medical field, my income is far less than what is required to rent even a bedroom in someone's home. My health is not ideal so working two or more jobs is simply not an option. And why should I have to? I was born and raised in Springfield and I am known to be incredibly frugal with my money. I work a full time job. So why is being homeless even a possibility?

The way things are right now, women HAVE to be with a man to survive. I have a few female friends who are trapped in their relationship because they can't afford to live without him. Read that again. This is unacceptable. Do you really want to have a hand in creating more abuse, more dependence and more homeless?

I am grateful that I won the lottery as far as private landlords go and I honestly wish there were more like her. It's the property management companies and the greedy, low-lying, scumlords that got us to this point. But now we're here and it's not working out well.

Please read every page of testimony with an open mind. Maybe you aren't personally experiencing the hardships described but we represent the repercussions of past laws and regulations. We represent the consequences of those who swore to represent us but betrayed us as soon as they were elected. This is your opportunity to prove that you understand what is happening at devastating levels in this State. Your opportunity to prove that you aren't the same as the others. Your opportunity to show integrity and truly help those who are depending on you. Your opportunity to show with your actions that you are unwilling to contribute to the homelessness crisis and give hope back to the citizens of Oregon.

It's not our vote that matters, it's yours.