

Submitter: Neamhain Virtue

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I'm writing to you as a resident of Portland urging you to support SB 611. While it does not do enough to address the rent crisis facing Oregon renters, it would be a significant step in the right direction.

I'm a proud member of Portland Tenants United, one of many groups supporting this bill, which would lower rent increases, provide protections for all buildings more than 3 years old, and increase moving assistance for no-fault evictions.

Again, this isn't nearly enough. As a blue-collar worker, a member of the growing class of "working poor" in the U.S., I have come of age in a country with a disappearing middle class and a growing gulf between those who have homes and those who rent at increasingly exorbitant rates.

Furthermore as a parent, I know housing security is critical for my child's ability to perform well in school and at home; as it is my rent has already been raised so much that if I were to apply today for my own apartment, I wouldn't be accepted to live there because my income is too low. I've only lived here three years.

Please step in and vote for this bill; please do your part to support the hard-working Oregonians whose labor makes this state what it is. We are Oregon and we deserve safe affordable homes. Thank you.