

Submitter: Chelsea Kline

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,

My name is Chelsea and I live in Portland, OR. I write to you in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

This proposal will provide much-needed relief to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising rents and limited resources.

I have lived at my current apartment for 8 years, in which time rent has doubled. While I am one of the lucky few who has been able to keep up with my rent increase, I was only able to do so thanks to switching careers, a luxury not afforded to all. Were it not for the current rent cap, I would certainly have had to find another housing option (not an easy task in Portland.) I worry most about my elderly neighbors on fixed incomes who have little if any ability to relocate, and who have lived in our complex for well over a decade.

I support SB611 because it will limit annual rent increases to 3 percent plus CPI or 8 percent, whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years-old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

This proposal is still not enough to stabilize rents. With an 8 percent annual rent increase, rent still doubles in 9 years. I don't know anyone that can afford that. But SB 611 will still be markedly better than the current law which allowed for unacceptable 14.6 percent rent increases this year. The burden of housing insecurity caused by skyrocketing rents is not limited to just myself, it affects families, seniors, and low-income renters throughout our state. We must act now to ensure that our communities have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

In conclusion, I urge our legislators to support SB 611, which will provide much-needed relief to renters across our state. Housing is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chelsea