

Submitter: Anne Poe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Seniors in Oregon have a crisis in finding affordable housing. Those who are disabled have some help in financing, but the ones who are eligible for independent living, are unable to find affordable housing. Rents are increased by a yearly rent increase of 14-22%. If they plan to leave, apartment deposits that were withheld, they are returned rarely. Moving costs are ridiculously high.

SB 611 and other bills pending in the State legislature are giving seniors some relief in these issues. When State Representative, Courtney Neron held a Town Hall at the Marjorie Stewart Senior Center, in Sherwood, Oregon, recently, we heard testimonies regarding these issues.

I reside in a Senior residence which is a 20 year old facility, this one is not scheduled to have a rent cap that is proposed, but even newly built facilities of under 5 years would be a start for Seniors assistance. Families are having to help support their loved ones even if the Senior had a large home to sell to provide funding in their reclining years. If a spouse was ill, medical bills can be crippling for the survivor. I have a senior friend with a husband having cancer treatments and a 98 year old mother too. Some families have children who have moved "back home" do to lower pay jobs to make payments on their student loans. My children help with my rental costs but in June a 14% rent increase is looming. Any help that the legislature can pass will be most appreciated. Please pass SB 611 and many more bills for us. I worked all my life and two Federal retirements - Federal and Social Security, do not provide for me. I will be 90 this year and am still going "strong."

Anne