

February 21, 2023

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Annelie Haberman, and I am a 2nd grade bilingual teacher at South Shore Elementary in Albany, OR. I write to you in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

I am proud to be a member of the Eugene Tenant Alliance, which is among the many organizations in support of this bill. 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. It will limit annual rent increases to 3% plus CPI or 8% whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years-old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

I personally know how difficult it can be to face rent increases, especially when it means having to choose between paying the bills or putting food on the table.

In the case of my brother currently attending OSU, I have seen the intense toll rent increases take on a person's financial stability and mental well being. The starting rent for my brother's living situation in 2020 was \$1,200. The landlord then increased it to \$1,400 in 2021, which is a 16.7% increase (beyond the state mandated rent increase cap of 9.9%. The next increase was to \$1,535 for 2023; another 9.6% increase. And the landlord plans to increase the rent to \$1,700 in the upcoming 2023 rental agreement. That will be another 10.7% increase in rent. In a short span of under 3 years, my brother's rent will have increased 42% from the original rental amount.

This has all been during the global pandemic when consistent employment has been unreliable and mental health needs for students have been acute on top of academic expectations. All the while wages have barely increased and inflation has skyrocketed. These financial burdens of rent increases caused tremendous stress for my brother on top of the already taxing demands of his academic commitments. The burden of housing insecurity is not limited to just my own family; 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,

Annelie Haberman