

February 18, 2023

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

My name is Nancy Ashworth and I am semi-retired, living on Social Security, and I work part time. I write to you in support of SB611, which addresses the critical need for rent security 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 bills or putting food on the table. As I mentioned before, I collect Social Security and I work part time to make ends meet. I am a single senior Oregonian with very few resources or support. I do not have a family I can turn to if I become more rent burdened than I already am. This year, I calculated when my rent is increased by 14.6% it will be \$120 more dollars per month. That is a lot when you don't have much income. I am dipping into my credit cards just to make it each month, and it keeps me up at night. I find myself very depressed and full of anxiety. I have limited income and I will soon not be able to afford to stay in my apartment, nor will I be able to move. So where does one go when there are waiting lists even in the shelters? I also fear for my daughter and grandchildren. The burden of housing insecurity is not limited to just myself...it affects families, seniors, and low income renters throughout the 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 SB611, 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,

Nancy Ashworth