

Submitter: John McCartney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John McCartney. I live in Hillsboro. I am testifying in support of SB 799. I am disabled and living on a fixed income. I am just shy of 65 and I am terrified of being priced out or evicted from my home. Too many people like me are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, as well as the rest of the Homelessness Prevention Package to increase rent assistance and have more reasonable rent increases.

My family has lived here for 6 years. Last year we received the maximum allowed rent increase, which was over \$200 a month. When my lease renews in June, I expect my landlord will do the maximum again, 14.6%. That would be a \$320 increase, or \$3,840 a year. With fixed incomes, and an adult son living with us, we just can't afford that kind of increase. And then what? Where would we go?

Even more frightening, my building is actually exempt from any kind of rent cap because it's only 10 years old. They could raise the rent whatever they wanted. It's egregious. We live with constant anxiety of becoming homeless. For me, because of my health conditions, homelessness could be fatal. My wife is terrified. SB 611 would ensure that even newer buildings like mine are protected by the rent cap.

Sincerely,
John