

Submitter: Juniper Kilpatrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

My name is Juniper Kilpatrick. I'm 32 years old and live in the Hollywood neighborhood with my partner and 7 year old son. When I first had my son, we lived in a 2 bedroom for \$975. Even then that price was unheard of but the building was unsafe, dilapidated, full of mold and a serious rat problem.

A couple of moves later we are paying \$1460 for a two bedroom and struggling to financially stay above water, particularly with inflation. We are making difficult decisions about healthcare vs paying bills and though our current housing is cleaner and safer, it is a serious indignity that any person or family should have to make the trade off between unsafe living conditions and financial security.

In my view, housing is a human right. Being able to function in modern society without access to a safe place to sleep, to prepare food, to use the restroom and maintain basic hygiene is near impossible. Addressing the housing crisis starts with helping people to stay housed. Here in Portland, we likely wouldn't be at the level of crisis we are today, talking about spending 2.5 million dollars to push people out of sight into packed camps if we had adequately looked out for the people who were struggling to stay housed due to common financial difficulties in the first place.

Please watch out for Oregon citizens and make sure that the profits of landlords does not come with the cost of a worsening homelessness crisis. Please help support families like mine who just want to take care of ourselves and provide a secure home for our child.