

Submitter: Samantha Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

I'm a renter in Portland, a single mom and a small business owner.

Renters, just like owners, have financial goals and dreams. I would like to contribute to the local economy with my small business yet my insecurity caused by housing cost increases prevents me from being the best person I can be for my local community.

As a basic social standard, everyone needs to know they won't be priced out of their home. Setting that standard allows some of us in society to get to work on things that actually help our neighbors. Raising rents hurts the community by contributing to chronic stress, adding to any food insecurity that already existed and aids in people postponing vital medical care they might need. Big rent increases hurt the community in a measurable way.

By allowing huge housing cost increases we are effectively silencing the next generation of problem solvers. We know that basic social safety nets and affordable housing contributes to an increase in societal innovation. Landlords will be okay with price caps on rent increases; they won't become homeless or destitute or fail to contribute to their retirement. Renters on the other hand will be faced with homelessness, destitution and an inability to achieve humble financial goals (like saving for retirement or being able to afford medical insurance) as a result of allowing additional increases without consequences.

Please vote in support of this bill. Property owners are already winning. Renters are struggling. We need advocacy and support and your vote can make that happen.