

Submitter: Charles Wynns

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB 611. My support is based on my personal experience with very onerous rent increases over the last few years, and specifically, rent increases over the last year.

I am a senior citizen. I have also been a renter all of my life. In the last year, I have been hit with a rent increase right up to the legal maximum, 14.6%. Yes, the rent increase is legal. And at the same time, a rent increase of 14.6% has put my wife's and me in increasing financial hardship. Housing is the biggest monthly expense for most people including me. But onerous rent increases are not the only cost facing my wife and I. Food costs have jumped. Our power bills have gone through the roof. I am retired but work part time. Still my wife and I live in a constant state of economic insecurity. And we are not alone.

Oregon now has a chance to relieve some of these economic burdens. SB 611 is not a panacea, but it offers significant protection against the kind of killer rent increases we have seen this year and over the last few years. It's really up to Oregon State government to try and make Oregon a livable state for all of it's citizens, even the 60% to 70% of the population who toil away day by day holding Oregon's economy together; they too deserve something better than a life of insecurity.

Therefore, I urge you to please pass SB 611.

Thank You