

Submitter: Seth Teige

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

To the members of the committee,

It's been a hard year. I had to change jobs and accepted a pay cut of \$1.30/hr with a mandatory unpaid lunch hour. It wasn't a significant difference in my income, but I had to make adjustments to make ends meet and had to forego some financial choices I wanted to make.

When I signed up for insurance through my new employer, I found the cost would be more out of pocket and none of the plan options included a reasonable deductible. My deductible for myself, alone, is \$5500. I pay for insurance because I have had two catastrophic injuries resulting in four surgeries since 2016.

It's common knowledge that costs for groceries, gasoline and other living essentials have gone up remarkably. The cost of day-to-day living has become much more financially strained.

At the turn of the year last December, PGE rates increased and my monthly bill doubled in cost. I turned my heat down for the next month and the next bill was 50% higher than previous billing cycles

And then the Federal Reserve began an aggressive process of interest rate increases. I can tell you this policy has completely stagnated my efforts to pay down credit debt and has only increased my costs. I have to use a credit card to make ends meet each month which never occurred before this past year.

My rent was increased in March of this year. An increase of \$25. It's not unmanageable, but it is just one more cost I have to stretch to make. I hardly feel like over \$1100/mo for 700 square feet in North Portland is an equitable exchange.

My point is that with all of these small but rising costs make it increasingly unaffordable to survive. If we could control one cost so that people can maintain their housing, that is a necessary step we must take. I ask you to move forward in support of SB611.

Thank you,

Seth Teige