

26 March 2023

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 611. My name is Anita Gilham and I am a recent former resident of Woodspring Apartments in Tigard, Oregon. I strongly urge you to pass SB 611 as a critical homelessness prevention strategy, to protect seniors, families, individuals and communities across the state from extreme rent increases and displacement.

It was the "end of an era" when I moved out of my apartment a few months ago since I was **THE Last Original Resident** of Woodspring Apartments in Tigard. No one else had ever lived in my apartment for THIRTY-ONE years. With the annual rent increases and PARTICULARLY the pending MASSIVE rent increase, I was forced to move in with my daughter. I am VERY fortunate to have that option available but MANY of my friends who remain at Woodspring Apartments are in a desperate position since they will not be able to afford to continue living there and have nowhere to go. **This is deplorable and totally unacceptable.**

Oregon's housing emergency goes beyond lack of supply and the number of people living without homes or shelter. We have a rental emergency as well, with tenants living just one rent increase notice away from displacement and possible homelessness. Without SB 611 to stop runaway and extreme rent increases, we will continue to see people displaced onto the streets more quickly than we can rehouse people. Without passage of SB 611, Oregon's success in addressing the housing crisis is at grave risk.

Please pass SB 611 as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anita Gilham

