

Submitter: Tom Sincic
On Behalf Of: Health Care for All Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 611.

When a person is unable to afford housing eviction follows and their world falls apart: no place to keep their positions, difficulty staying employed, and deterioration of their physical and mental health. In a just society, this is plain wrong. It is wrong for individuals, families, and communities.

Oregon has prioritized dealing with the homelessness crisis. A 14.6% housing cost increase is outrageous and is antithetical to addressing this crisis. We must stop putting more people on the streets. Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes and will continue to do so.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities.

Tom Sincic
On Behalf of Health Care for All Oregon