

Submitter: Rebecca Keene

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1530

- Identify yourself and/or your program, if any, and indicate clearly your support of investments in rent assistance
- Say a brief word about your experience/perspective/expertise
- Say a few key points about why you support these investments
- Reiterate your support
- Say thank you

My name is Rebecca Keene, I receive rent assistance through Home Forward, in Portland. Rental rates are going up too fast, and as a Person with a Disability, on a fixed income, they are exceedingly higher than what the incoming income through The Social Security Administration allows through their Programs as Income. Which ultimately means that People with Disabilities, like myself, have to choose between food, Housing costs or rent itself. There Has to be a CAP on rental amounts that do Not Exceed the tenant's Income. Housing Costs have to DECREASE instead of Increase. Especially for citizens of Oregon who survive on a Fixed Income through the Social Security Administration.

Landlords should Not be allowed to hike or increase the rent amount every year, it should be allowed to stay the same, every year, during a tenant's residency of a unit. After the signing of the original Lease to the unit. For example, when I moved into my unit in 2020, my rent through 2021 was 1,000. It should stay that way, until I move out, however instead, In 2022, mine went up to 1,099. Then, in 2023, My rent went up again to, 1,169.00 a Month. Now, it's 2024, and the rent is set to increase to 1,270.00 a month.

How is Anyone with a Disability who Survives on Social Security supposed to Maintain rent, pay for Medicine, or Medical Needs, and for Food? And Maintain a Home as well?

The Bottom Line is that Rent Increases Have to STOP. And residents should be allowed to live in their housing AT the cost of when they originally rented their homes. For the Length of their tenancy as a resident.

Tax hikes or initiatives also need to cease. So, that residents can afford to live in their homes. The Government has to figure out a way to stop rent increases, so that Citizens of Oregon, especially the underserved can not only get into Housing, but to be able to Maintain safe and clean housing. These rent and Housing Increases have got to stop, so that Oregonians can stay in their housing. This alone could prevent Homelessness. And help people stay in their Homes, while increasing the length of residency of a resident.

All in all, there has to be a stop to rent and housing increases.

Thank-you for listening.

