

Dear Chair Sen. Fagan, Vice-Chair Sen. Girod, members Sen. Golden, Sen. Knopp & Sen. Anderson,

My partner and I moved into a small, beautiful, house in Salem in June 2015. We loved the house, and the price was right, at \$900/month. For a musician and a professional with student loan debt, it was the perfect place for us. We lived there for 3 years and made our rent payments on-time every month. We would have lived there for many more years, we even talked about buying the place when we could, but we were forced out by a rent increase of \$550 (38%).

In June 2018, we were notified that our rent would increase from \$900 to \$950, which was a reasonable increase, and completely doable for us. We continued to make our monthly auto-payments in full. In October 2018, we received notice that another rent increase would come into effect in January 2019. This time, our rent would increase from \$950-\$1450/month. We loved our home so much that we tried to figure out how we would make such a significant increase work; we desperately wanted to stay. It was ultimately not possible for us to remain there and we had to move in November 2018. This was extremely stressful for my partner and me. I am in graduate school, working toward an MSW, and the added stress of the move and financial strain was extremely difficult. We were both very depressed and strained financially, trying to save enough for a move. Fortunately, our families were able to help us with the quick move and initial move-in costs for the new place, but others aren't as lucky.

We are happy in our new home, but I still struggle to understand how such a dramatic increase was justified, especially considering that we were reliable tenants and had already experienced a rent increase three months prior.

To ensure people can live and thrive in Salem and in Oregon, it is crucial that SB 608 is passed to protect tenants from unfair increases and evictions and ensure people can remain in their homes.

Kate Normand,

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