

2/18/2019

I am here today sharing my story as a first hand account of how our current laws housing laws contribute to generational poverty for women, children, immigrants, and people of color. I am in support for SB608 to provide some protections against no-cause evictions and rent hikes.

I have been a renter all my life. I was raised by an immigrant, independant parent who worked multiple minimum wage jobs and often had to share our home with others to afford our necessities. When I turned 15 I started to work to help pay the bills.

Poverty breeds instability for hard working people. I grew up without extracurricular activities that are so beneficial to youth's development. Sports, music, art, or STEM classes cost money outside of basic necessities and are a luxury. I've tried to break the cycle of poverty in my family by attending college, aspiring to higher paid jobs, enrolling my daughter in extracurricular classes, and saving to buy a house. However, it's extra tough because I know that like many other immigrant youth, it will be my responsibility to financially care for my mother when she is no longer able to work. A lot rests on my shoulders.

So, when my rent went up by \$225 in 2017 it was more than my family could afford if I hadn't recently started a job. I was fresh out of college. We considered moving but most rents were at least \$500 more per month than what we were paying.

In 2018, we received a notice terminating our tenancy for no reason. The landlord simply wanted us out. I tried to stay but she wouldn't budge. I had 60 days to move out and spent every waking moment outside of work hours searching for a place that was affordable and fit my family's size. The whole experience was traumatic.

I probably visited over 15-20 rentals during the first few weeks of my search. Sixty days was not enough time to move. We ended up in a place that costs \$700 more per month. So in a period of 1 year, my rent went up a total of \$1000 unexpectedly. Also, we spent most of our savings on moving costs. My teenage daughter is no longer playing sports or taking music outside of school. And she has been affected emotionally and socially due to the forced move to a new school.

I am sad because we had planned to save for a house but homeownership is a far out possibility now. I will continue to pay rent helping someone else grow their wealth, while I've done everything I know how to break that cycle in my family.

I know that I am privileged despite my experience. I haven't had to live in a car, in hotels, or on the street like thousands of families and individuals do everyday in our state. However, my story would have been drastically different if all of this had happened just one year earlier when I was unemployed. It is a clear example of how people who have lived in poverty, and are working to get out, are one unexpected eviction or emergency away from being pulled back down. **Please vote Yes on SB608.** It's a great start to protecting your constituency.

**Respectfully,**  
**Gloria Pinzon, resident of Tigard/Beaverton areas, Oregon**