SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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News Release

Rent stabilization will help prevent price gouging
SB 608: Healthy and thriving families need safe and stable housing

SALEM – A bill designed to help rein in soaring rental increases for working families across the state has passed the Oregon Senate.

Senate Bill 608 – which passed today on the Senate floor – would eliminate "no cause" evictions after tenants have completed their first year of occupancy. It also would cap annual rental increases for buildings more than 15 years old. The bill was co-carried by Sen. Shemia Fagan, D-Portland, and Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, D-Gresham, on the Senate floor.

"Last December, I met an 83-year-old renter who was afraid to ask maintenance to fix her lights for fear of eviction or a rent spike," Fagan said. "She had lived in the dark for 3 months by the time I met her. SB 608 protects her and hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who deserve safe and stable rental housing."

The bill would protect Oregon's renters by ensuring they won't face enormous, unforeseen rent increases or be kicked out of their homes after they've been in their homes for at least a year. Safe and stable housing is a central requirement for healthy families to thrive and for children to excel in school.

The bill prohibits landlords from terminating month-to-month tenancies without cause after one year of occupancy. Tenants would be entitled to 90 days' notice of eviction and a relocation assistance payment in the amount of one month's rent. Landlords with four or fewer units would not be required to make relocation assistance payments.

"Safe, secure housing is a cornerstone of healthy and thriving families," Monnes Anderson said. "We are the first state that's ever taken this approach and I believe it will help people stay in their homes, without diminishing the supply of rental housing in the state."

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