



House Committee on Housing & Homelessness

**Testimony in Support of HB 3378**

Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations

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AARP is pleased to support HB 3378. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50+ to choose how they live as they age. AARP Oregon advocates on issues important to our 500,000 Oregon members with a focus on health security, financial resilience and livable communities.

In recent years, there has been a significant shift towards using digital technology for various aspects of daily life, including accessing our homes. While this technological advancement offers convenience for many, it also poses substantial challenges for those who may not be as tech-savvy or who do not own the necessary electronic devices. This can include older Oregonians, those with cognitive or physical disabilities as well as lower-income Oregonians who may not be able to afford the type of phone equipment that can download the required software to work.

It's very disappointing that the opposition focuses on what they describe as the growing preference for modern security technology in residential properties and the need to quickly update security systems as a reason to oppose this bill. HB 3378 does not bar landlords from implementing the newer technologies. It simply provides that any tenant must be provided the option to use an alternative means whether it's using an electronic access code, fob, key card or an old fashion key. This ensures that all tenants, regardless of their technological proficiency or device ownership, can access their homes without difficulty.

While modern electronic entry systems offer many advantages, it is essential to balance these benefits with the need for inclusivity, reliability, and tenant peace of mind. Mandating a secondary, non-digital access method does not undermine the benefits of modern security technology; rather, it complements them by ensuring that all tenants can enjoy safe and reliable access to their homes.

For these reasons, we urge passage of HB 3378.