

March 12, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

FROM: Ali King, on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda

SUBJECT: Support for SB 722

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child by leveraging data and research. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families.

SB 722, which provides crucial protections for tenants and ensures fairer practices in the rental market, **is prioritized in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how stable housing is foundational to economic security, public health, and overall well being, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities. In 2023, 51.8% of Oregon families faced rental cost burden.¹ In the 2022-2023 school year, 3.9%

¹ ACS 5-year estimates, table B25070

of Oregon students faced unstable housing, with dramatically higher percentages cited in many school districts across the state (McKenzie SD 68-24.24%, Arlington SD 3-22%, Oakridge SD 76-18.52, Butte Falls SD 91-17.35%).²

For children and youth, housing instability is linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes, which leads to various other issues, including lower rates of attendance in school and declining educational outcomes.

SB 722 is the only policy tool on the table this session that would provide immediate and measurable protection for Oregonians suffering due to rent spikes as a result of our state's affordable housing crisis.

We appreciate the work you do for Oregon's families and children.

We strongly urge you to support SB 722 to ensure that Oregon's rental market remains fair and accessible for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon

Stable Homes for Oregon Families

Fair Shot Coalition

Baby Blues Connection

Black Parent Initiative

Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing

Children's Institute

Housing Oregon

Latino Network

Neighborhood Partnerships

Next Up Action Fund

Nurse-Family Partnership

² <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/esea/mckinney-vento/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Community Alliance of Tenants
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Alliance
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)