

March 18th, 2025
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 722

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

My name is Alexis Bennett, and I am writing in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by strengthening Oregon's rent stabilization laws and prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to artificially inflate rents.

As a renter, I faced annual rent increases that made it nearly impossible to plan financially. On top of that, I experienced housing discrimination simply for having children and pets—landlords routinely refused to rent to families like mine. Even when we found a place, we had to meet income requirements that were completely unrealistic, often needing to prove we earned four to five times the rent. These policies made it extremely difficult for my family to stay housed, forcing us to move frequently just to keep up with rising costs.

A rent cap, as proposed in SB 722, would provide much-needed stability for families, ensuring that housing remains affordable and predictable. Additionally, this bill would prohibit the use of price-fixing AI software, which allows landlords and corporations to artificially inflate rent prices at the expense of tenants. Oregon must take a stand against these exploitative practices and implement protections that keep families in their homes.

While I have since transitioned to homeownership, the instability we faced as renters had lasting effects on my family. I know many others are still struggling with these same challenges, and without stronger tenant protections, they will continue to face financial uncertainty and housing insecurity.

Oregon needs policies that protect tenants from excessive rent hikes and unreasonable income barriers. For all of these reasons, I urge lawmakers to pass SB 722 to ensure a fair and stable housing market for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Oregon renters.

Sincerely,
Alexis Bennett