

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 Michele Mei, and I am writing in strong support of SB 722 and SB 611 to address the housing discrimination, landlord neglect, and systemic barriers that make it nearly impossible for tenants like me to secure stable housing.

Since 2019, I have endured multiple evictions, won five lawsuits due to discrimination, and battled property managers who refuse to comply with even the most basic housing laws. Despite my legal victories, I continue to face blacklisting in Portland, making it even harder to find a safe and affordable place to live.

One of the most egregious experiences I faced was when a landlord refused rent assistance, forcing me into a \$7,000 lawsuit just to assert my right to stay in my home. I have been stalked by landlords, denied housing due to perceived biases, and forced to move repeatedly—each time losing money to application fees, deposits, and legal battles. Even when property managers are found guilty of code violations, they face no real consequences, while tenants like me are left with nowhere to go.

Rent increases only add to these struggles. Without a cap on rent hikes, working families, seniors, and people on fixed incomes are being priced out of their homes. The rental market is not designed to protect people—it is designed to exploit them. SB 722 would strengthen rent stabilization by reducing the exemption for new construction from 15 years to 7 years, ensuring that more tenants receive protection from rent spikes. Additionally, the bill prohibits the use of price-fixing AI software, which landlords use to artificially inflate rent prices and maximize profits at tenants' expense. SB 611 further strengthens tenant protections by capping excessive rent increases, ensuring that housing remains predictable and affordable.

Oregon must do better. We need real tenant protections, enforceable rent caps, and accountability for property managers who violate tenant rights. I refuse to be silent about the discrimination and financial abuse that renters are facing every day. I urge you to stand with Oregon's tenants and pass these critical bills.

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

Sincerely,
Michele Mei