



March 17, 2025

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

On behalf of SO Health-E, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 722, a crucial measure to help Oregon families stay in their homes by preventing excessive rent increases and by eliminating price-fixing practices in the rental market. Housing stability is fundamental to individual and community health, and this bill is a necessary step toward ensuring that more Oregonians can afford to remain in their communities without the constant threat of displacement.

SO Health-E works to improve the health and well-being of Southern Oregonians by addressing the social determinants of health, including access to stable housing. We see the impacts of housing instability every day—families forced to choose between rent and medical care, seniors struggling to remain in their homes, and individuals pushed into unsafe living situations due to unpredictable rent spikes. The stress and uncertainty of unaffordable housing directly impact physical and mental health, straining families and the broader healthcare system alike.

SB 722 is a practical and balanced approach to addressing Oregon's urgent housing crisis. By reducing the exemption for new construction from 15 years to 7 years, this bill ensures that thousands more housing units—40,000 in total—are covered under the state's rent stabilization laws. This change strikes a fair balance, maintaining incentives for new housing development while protecting tenants from rapid rent increases that contribute to gentrification and displacement.

In addition, SB 722 tackles an increasingly alarming issue: the use of AI-driven price-fixing software that artificially inflates rents. These algorithms prioritize corporate profit over community well-being, driving up housing costs in ways that renters simply cannot keep up with. Oregon has already taken a stand against this practice by joining a federal lawsuit, and this bill reinforces that commitment by ensuring that price-fixing has no place in our state.

The connection between housing and health is undeniable, and SB 722 is an essential tool for protecting the well-being of Oregon families. We urge you to pass this bill to provide meaningful, immediate relief to renters across the state. Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Michelle Glass
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator,
SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition