



*Testimony in support of SB 722 (2025)*

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

My name is Kate Suisman. I am an attorney at the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We represent workers in low-wage jobs when bad things happen to them at work: when they are not paid, or are discriminated against for being in a protected class or are retaliated against for speaking up. Finally, we engage in policy advocacy and try to bring the important perspectives of workers in low-wage jobs and immigrant workers to these policy discussions.

I write in strong support of SB 722, an important part of addressing the housing crisis in our state. NWJP's client community is exclusively workers in low-wage jobs. Many live with little savings, and many worry about paying monthly expenses. This is of course greatly exacerbated when workers suffer from wage theft or discrimination and lose hours, pay or their jobs due to an employer's illegal action. We see the struggle to find and keep affordable housing on a daily basis.

Many tools are needed to get us out of this crisis and ensure that all Oregonians are housed, but an important one is strengthening our rent control law. SB 722 is estimated to add rent stabilization for an additional 40,000 housing units, making sure that people living in these units can stay housed despite changing market pressures.

We also see an increase in use of artificial intelligence in many parts of our lives, from employment where robots monitor our keystrokes and replace us, to housing where software mucks around in the cost of rent and fixes prices. Oregon can and should do a better job of passing legislation that meets today's moment. SB 722 will help make sure price fixing is not allowed in Oregon, whether it be through old-fashioned collusion or the use of modern day AI software.

Please support this important and well thought-out bill. Thank you.