

Submitter: Grace Alston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Grace Alston. I live and rent in Portland. I am writing to convey my support for SB 722 because I am in favor of protections against rent spikes for Oregonians.

I live in a two bedroom house with a couple. They share the master bedroom, while I occupy a smaller auxiliary room. When we began our housing search, squeezing three adults into a two bedroom was the only affordable option that placed us inside the city and close to our places of work. We had so few options that fit in our budget.

We need relief for renters now. We need more housing long term. Rent increases and housing cost burdens are a direct cause of homelessness. And as far as I am aware, SB 722 is the only policy proposal currently available to provide renter relief.

Furthermore, I am in favor of a ban on AI price fixing. I believe that AI cannot accurately reflect the conditions of the market and respond to the growing affordability crisis. I know AI cannot comprehend what kind of damage rent spikes will inflict upon my savings goals for a house, a family, and emergency healthcare funds, and will mercilessly fix rents and bleed renters dry with a pre-programmed profit motive.

Please vote in favor of SB 722. Thank you for your time.

Grace Alston