

Testimony in Support of Rent Stabilization & Anti-A.I. Price Fixing (SB 722)
Madison Canfield
March 19th, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Rent Stabilization and anti-A.I. price fixing. My name is Madison Canfield and I am a resident in Portland.

I am a renter in this state. I have worked for nonprofits that work to address housing instability and homelessness. I have been a renter in Oregon, Portland specifically, for over a decade now along with most of my friends and peers and coworkers. The amount of people is immense that have to move every couple years because their rent was increased beyond their means is everywhere. And moving itself is so expensive; we all know it requires a decent amount of savings to move in the first place. It's a Catch-22 that puts working class and middle class people who live paycheck to paycheck at risk of homelessness and we already have 6000 unsheltered neighbors in Portland, many coming from across the state here in hope of services.

SB 722 increases protections for renters, caps increases at 10% for buildings built seven years ago, and is a bill that reinforces our commitment to keeping people safe in their homes in a time where houselessness is pervasive, encroaching, and criminalized more each day.

Home ownership is increasingly out of reach for so many who would love nothing more than to own. Prices are unbelievable and not keeping with wages and school debt in the slightest. Cost of living is skyrocketing. 60% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and many renters who are at risk of our whole lives being uprooted by someone choosing to sell their house or to raise the rent well over 20%. A 10% increase would already be a stretch for most people I know renting, and anyone living paycheck to paycheck especially. Anything beyond that is cruelty and no amount of improvements to a building would justify raising costs any more than that.

This is common sense, I hope you vote to approve SB 722 as a safeguard to protect Oregonians who rent. Help us have a fair chance against private landlords and corporate rental companies who already make a profit off of our basic need for shelter. If you say you care about children and families and everyday people in your state, show it. We need to keep people with a roof over their head. We need help and you're in a position to do something. Vote yes on SB 722.