



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

March 19, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 722**.

My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am providing testimony on behalf of SEIU Oregon, which is composed of two locals: Local 503 and Local 49. Together, we represent over 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington.

We support SB 722 because we **believe** that every Oregonian should be able to afford rent and have access to a place they call home without having to put in jeopardy their ability to pay for health care, food, and other necessities. Unfortunately, our state is facing a housing crisis, and that **belief** is not a reality for many Oregonians, like our members.

Our members are janitors, security officers, maintenance and custodial workers; they are healthcare, homecare, and personal support workers; they are ODOT, DHS, and BOLI workers. Our members clean, protect, and maintain your buildings; they care for our seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public; they are the frontline workers who make Oregon work.

And the reality is that these same workers who provide Oregon's critical public services, **cannot** afford to provide their families with a stable home.

Time and time again we have come to this legislature in support of rent stabilization policies, because we understand that rent stabilization increases housing stability for renters and it protects and benefits **ALL** tenants, specifically low-income tenants which are the majority of my members.

And while we do also understand that production is important—and we are supportive of building more units, as long as they have an affordable component to them—the reality is that our members literally **cannot** afford to wait 15 years for newly constructed buildings to no longer be exempt from the rent stabilization policies that we've passed.

Our fellow Oregonians are struggling to put a roof over their heads, **right now**. They need help, **right now!**

SEIU Oregon urges this Committee to stand alongside our workers and support SB 722.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council