

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by extending coverage of our state's rent stabilization statutes, and by prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents.

As a mental health professional, I see everyday the detrimental impact of housing insecurity on the mental health of my clients. Access to affordable, livable, and safe housing is a basic human right. It should be protected through investment by state and federal legislation. A lack of accessible and reliable housing has a deleterious effect on one's ability to manage their health, to work consistently, and care for their children- not to mention disruptions in sleep, mood, and other impacts essential to well-being and quality of life. I have witnessed firsthand the positive and negative impacts of safe and accessible housing on the mental health of my clients and family members. This contributes to the mental health crisis raging in our communities.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Erin Mahone