

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **Innovation Law Lab** in support of SB 722 to 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. Innovation Law Lab is an organization of lawyers, coders and advocates working to advance immigrant and refugee justice.

Immigrant communities are key contributors to Oregon's economy, workforce and society and often are left out of social safety net programs. Additionally, immigrant Oregonians are among the most vulnerable community members to eviction. Those most affected by the predatory practices targeted by this legislation are often the same folks who already have the fewest protections—immigrants, low-wage workers, and communities of color.

Oregon renters are the 6<sup>th</sup> most cost burdened in the nation, and our eviction crisis is growing with more than 27,000 cases filed last year. 88% of evictions are because tenants cannot afford Oregon's high rents. Rent stabilization protects affordability because renters experience fewer rent spikes that are the functional equivalent of an eviction.

SB 722 would provide immediate and measurable protection for Oregonians suffering due to rent spikes as a result of the affordable housing crisis and takes a meaningful step toward fairness. Stable, affordable housing is not a privilege but a basic human right. When people have a place to call home, they contribute more to their communities. But without action, the cycle of displacement and instability will continue.

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,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura L. Peña".

**Isa Peña**  
**Director of Strategy**  
**Innovation Law Lab**