



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Ben Gurewitz, Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: April 23, 2025
RE: SB 973 DRO Support

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Anderson,

My name is Ben Gurewitz, and I am the Deputy Director of Public Policy at Disability Rights Oregon. We are pleased to offer testimony in strong support of **SB 973**, which strengthens protections for residents of expiring affordable housing.

Oregonians with disabilities are disproportionately likely to rely on affordable housing. Many people with disabilities are on fixed incomes or work in low-wage jobs and cannot afford Oregon's exceedingly high rental prices. Any increase in rent places an unbearable strain on individuals who are already struggling to make ends meet. A significant rent hike will almost certainly lead to displacement and further exacerbate the homelessness crisis across our state.

People with disabilities need more time than their non-disabled counterparts to locate housing that meets both their accessibility and affordability needs. Once suitable housing is found, the process of moving—often involving medical equipment and specialized support—can be complex and time-consuming. People with disabilities deserve all the additional time they can get to facilitate such a transition.

SB 973 will provide residents of expiring affordable housing with the notice they both require and deserve in order to plan adequately. Specifically, the bill requires that landlords inform applicants of the date when the property's affordability restrictions will end and provide at least **30 months' advance notice** of the expiration date to all existing tenants. This critical legislation also mandates that the notice be translated into the five most commonly spoken languages in Oregon. These provisions will help reduce confusion and fear among marginalized communities—particularly during these tumultuous political times.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge the speedy passage of **SB 973**.

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO). For more than 40 years, we have served as Oregon's federally authorized and funded Protection & Advocacy System. DRO is committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people are protected and enforced.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.