

Submitter: Karl Coppock
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

My name is Karl. I am a graduate student at Portland State University. I was born in Portland, grew up in the Midwest, and have been back in Portland since 2008. I love Oregon and want to see it thrive, but we can only thrive when all our residents have ample opportunity. Housing is an absolute cornerstone of community success, and as such, I am writing today to express support for SB 722.

I have friends and family who struggle with mental health. One of the key factors I have seen in their journeys toward steady mental health is safe and stable housing. Family members often bear the brunt of the emotional, financial, and spiritual burden when loved ones struggle with stability. My wife and I have offered space to people needing short-term re-stabilization in the past; sadly, we are not in a situation currently where we can accommodate others living with us. A 15% spike in rent would put several of our beloved friends and family members in precarious situations—and I would emphasize, unnecessarily so. These are family members and friends who are diligent and hard-working, with a high sense of responsibility. When circumstances beyond their control conspire to upend the consistency they have worked so hard to build, their mental health suffers—often dramatically. This bill could protect tens of thousands of Oregonians from impossible rent increases and from the predatory use of AI software to set rents. Please center real, hardworking people as you consider this legislation. Landlord enrichment should not be the focal point of our housing policy.

So many of us dream of being a state that values human flourishing broadly, beyond a myopic care for the enrichment of the few. Please support SB 722!

Thank you,

Karl Coppock