

Submitter: Evan Selby
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,

I am writing to you today in support of SB 722. Oregon Renters deserve stable rental prices, free from unfair annual rent increases and price-fixing tools.

As an educator who serves students and their families in the Reynolds School District, I have seen firsthand how the egregious rent increases have impacted students. It is difficult if not impossible for students to learn when their families are constantly under duress due to continued rent increases--this is UNACCEPTABLE! We need to improve our state's rent stabilization statutes and prohibit the use of price-fixing software (AI) to inflate rents. This is a no-cost policy tool to help address our unfolding housing affordability crisis.

Too many Oregonians already struggle to find affordable housing before the additional burden of annual rent increases that far outpace average wage increases. Private equity firms and an untethered housing market have driven up rents at the expense of working families. SB 722 would help to stabilize rental prices and help Oregonians to maintain affordable housing and ensure that AI algorithms are not used to further burden Oregon renters.

We must continue to address the needs of those most impacted by our housing crisis.

I urge you to pass SB 722 to ensure that Oregonians are protected from unfair rental increases and price-fixing tools.

Sincerely,
Evan Selby
Troutdale, OR