



March 26, 2025

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

I am resubmitting testimony to clarify continued support of SB 722 but opposition to the Dash 1 Amendment. We believe SB722's strengthening of existing state law will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by extending coverage of our state's reasonable rent stabilization statutes to more units. We oppose the Dash 1 Amendments which would gut the bill.

Welcome Home Coalition is a multicultural and intersectional alliance of over 80 nonprofit organizations and individuals in the Portland Metro Area that uses its collective resources to build a movement for housing justice. We believe that everyone deserves to have an affordable and safe home in a neighborhood of their choice. We advocate for policies that eliminate inequities in housing outcomes based on race and class.

SB 722 will extend Oregon's prohibition on extreme, price-gouging rent increases to cover the residents of some 40,000 additional homes statewide. Expanding the rent stabilization statute to cover more units is the only policy tool on the table this session that would provide immediate and measurable protection for Oregonians at risk.

Oregon renters are the 6th 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. Oregon families are on the brink, and we must act now with real solutions.

Production is important but will take years to have an impact on rent levels. We cannot rely on new development of market-rate housing as the only strategy to solve our current affordability crisis. This approach will take years to have any impact, and renters need help today.

Please move SB 722 forward and reject Dash 1 Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Hogan".

Molly Hogan, Welcome Home Coalition Director