



Support Senate Bill 722
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
March 26th, 2025

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

My name is Arielle Hacker and I am the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator at Prevent Child Abuse Oregon (PCA Oregon) - a statewide nonprofit dedicated to child and family wellbeing through comprehensive, primary prevention strategies. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by extending coverage of our state's rent stabilization statutes, and prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents.

A safe and stable living environment is crucial for a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Studies indicate that a child's well-being is closely linked to their home environment.¹ We know that our housing crisis in Oregon disproportionately impacts our youngest Oregonians. Oregon is ranked the worst in the country for unsheltered homelessness among children, ranking 14 times higher than the national average.² We also know that more than half of Oregon renters experience a housing cost burden, which means they spend over 30% of their income on housing costs.³ Cost burden, or rental burden, is a significant driver of housing instability, increasing the risk of homelessness, evictions, and difficulty meeting other basic needs.

A literature review compiled by Chapin Hall shows housing instability can have significant impacts for family involvement with the child welfare system, including:

- Risk of child maltreatment
- Involvement in the child welfare system
- Delays in reunification

SB 722 is the only policy tool on the table this session that would provide immediate and measurable protection for Oregonians suffering from housing instability due to rent spikes as a result of our state's affordable housing crisis. This legislation strikes a balance between continuing to encourage new units to come into the market and

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/strengthening-families-through-housing-stability>

² <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/pages/state-of-the-state-housing.aspx>

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Documents/state-of-the-states-housing.pdf>

ensuring those units do not contribute to long-term gentrification and price inflation. The bill amends the Landlord-Tenant Act to prohibit the use of price-fixing AI software to artificially inflate rents. These kinds of products are the subject of [national attention](#) and concern, and Oregon has joined a federal lawsuit against this practice. Many local jurisdictions are taking steps to curtail this practice. Price fixing has no place in Oregon, and we cannot afford to allow this practice to exacerbate our housing crisis.

PCA Oregon envisions a world where all kids and families are living happy and purposeful lives with hope for the future. This vision hinges on all Oregon families having access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. For all of these reasons, we urge you to support SB 722.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Oregon children and families.

Sincerely,

Arielle Hacker

Arielle Hacker
Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
arielle@preventchildabuseoregon.org